

Open Studio,
Windmill House,
Long Lane,
5th & 6th, 12th & 13th,
19th and 20th July
10am-5.30pm

Established 1987

Over 2,350 copies
distributed
free in Linton,
Hildersham,
Hadstock &
Bartlow

THE LINTON NEWS

www.linton.info. e-mail lneditor@linton.info

July
2008

Vol. 22 N° 4

Publication Date
Monday 7th July

E & E PLUMRIDGE

Design & Print

41 High Street

Linton

01223 891407

Something for everyone at our festival



THE floral arrangements in the parish church during the Flower Festival and fête this year were on the theme *Love thy neighbour* and once again demonstrated the ingenuity and creativity of Linton's flower arrangers.

Festivities got off to a great start with the traditional barbecue and barn dance on Friday, blessed again this year with a lovely clear evening for the dancing.

On Saturday an ominously drizzly morning soon gave way to fine weather as the fête got under way, the dog show proving a particularly popular early attraction with pets of all shape and sizes, and prizes galore.

Linton Jazz provided a much appreciated musical backdrop and the bouncy castle did a steady trade through the afternoon, as did the barbecue which was particularly appreciated by the contestants in the five-a-side football tournament, won by the Aztec A team.

Meanwhile, in the infant school, craft and plant stalls and the LVC Enterprise stall offered their wares and the catering volunteers worked flat out to meet the demand for lunches and teas. In the playground were face painting, free games for children and a gleaming red Ferrari for the guess-the-mileage competition.

At 3pm Linton's teddy bears and soft toy friends began parachuting from the church tower. Conditions were ideal for this, with just enough breeze to provide a few nail biting moments, but not so much that any of the bears had to spend a cold night stuck up a tree. A couple of teddies had little time for nail biting as their parachutes failed to deploy, but it is a tribute either to their courage or the ruthlessness of their owners that they soon took up the offer of another go.

In the evening, lively and varied entertainment was provided in the church by the Merely Players, members of the church choir, congregation and friends and was well supported by an appreciative audience.

Sunday was a quieter day, though there were still stalls in the infant school and there was no Sabbath rest for the catering teams who again worked at full stretch.

In the afternoon the customary duck race took place on the Granta, and the ducks showed their usual languid character in good fête weather by making little progress by their own efforts. However a team of 'encouragers' chivvied them along from behind, resulting in a close finish witnessed in the hot sunshine by a capacity crowd.

The weekend drew to a



Clockwise from top left: face painting, ladies' football, bouncy castle, duck race dog show and parachuting teddies, all contributed to the festival



Pictures by Ron Pitkin, Roger Lapwood and David Champion



close with a festal ecumenical service in the church.

At the time of writing the accounts were yet to be finalised, but approximately £5,500 has been raised for the work of our parish church.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of local businesses and individuals who provided sponsorship for the flowers and raffle and the time and energy of many people in organising and setting up attractions, running them and

clearing away afterwards.

Particular thanks are due to the headteacher, staff and governors of Linton infant school for its use during the weekend, Leen Van den Eede of the Flower Boutique for supplying the flowers at a special rate, and Chris Varian from the Dog and Duck for the beer tent licence and staff.

Thanks also of course to all those who came to support the festival and have a wonderful time!

Andrew King 897832

A very special funeral: Smithy goes out in style

SPENCER Walter Smith, former scrap metal dealer and commercial motor trader, known to many as Smithy, died on 17th May aged 78, after a long illness.

St Mary's church Linton was packed, with many standing for his funeral on 30th May. Four beautifully presented old lorries carrying almost 60 floral wreaths, followed the horse-drawn hearse through the village to the church and then to the village cemetery.

Born in Swaffham in 1930, the eldest of six children, Spencer spent his early childhood in Waterbeach and in March, where his mother had a clothes shop; then in Silverstone where his father had some tipping lorries at work on the aerodrome during the war. As a popular teaboy at Silverstone and when he was younger at his mother's clothes shop, Spencer acquired

two vital skills – dealing and a knowledge of motor mechanics – that would serve him well throughout his life.

As a teenager, Spencer started buying and selling old bicycles, breeding chickens and dealing. In his early twenties he met Bluey Hibbs when both of their families were living at Red Lodge. They were married in 1952 and moved to Hills View in Balsham Road in 1955 subsequently moving to Back Road, Linton. At Hills View Spencer started the car dealing and recycling yard.

A close friend, Colin Creek, said Spencer could turn his hand to most things including mechanical repairs and spraying vehicles and for a time had worked on the motorways in the Midlands.

Spencer also bought and sold horses. Colin recalled a time when Spencer spotted a



Spencer Smith goes on his final journey in this beautiful carriage

Picture by Roger Lapwood

poorly treated pony on the side of the road, stopped, bought it and returned shortly afterwards with a horsebox to drive it home.

Another day when Colin and Spencer had the pony and trap, they stopped at the Queens Head pub in Balsham for a spot of refreshment, where they stayed for some time. The two men had a long walk back to Linton that night as the pony had become tired of waiting and gone home ahead of them.

In the 1980s Spencer enjoyed American-style harness racing, attending and competing in many competitions throughout the country.

Buying and renovating vintage cars and old lorries

became a major interest. The family regularly went to vintage car rallies to show some of their vehicles and meet other enthusiasts. Spencer was looking forward to attending this season's rallies.

"Spencer was a trader all his life," said daughter-in-law Beverley in her eulogy. "Almost to the day he died he was thinking about a lorry he wanted to buy at a forthcoming auction – he always maintained he would buy and sell to the day he died and he was true to his word."

He was not well enough to go himself so sent two sons to bid for him. "Is it on the button?" he asked as soon as they were back. They were able to let him know that it was indeed

in running order. "Yes Dad, it's on the button," they said. He did see a photograph but sadly, he was never to see the last lorry he bought.

Spencer's sons acted as pall bearers at the very moving service, with the family's poignantly chosen music (including *Chevrolet '57* played as Spencer was carried from church) and tributes from four of his 11 grandchildren Rebecca, Bianca, Emily and Levi, were read out by Rev Mark Mills-Powell.

Mr Smith leaves his wife Bluey, five sons and 11 grandchildren ranging in age from six to 26.

Kate France 891602

Could you represent Linton?

REBECCA Welsh is a television producer working at ITV on London's South Bank. She is currently producing a new observational documentary project for which she is looking for women and couples across rural Britain who have a real sense of community spirit – active community members who would like to put their village on the map.

The programme is one of a series of three entitled *Tribes*, and she is interested particularly in talking to women who feel that their role in village society defines or influences the way that they dress. They may be the mayor, vicar, bell ringer, farmer or farmer's wife, supporter of women's societies, or a parish councillor. Or they may be involved in one of the village clubs or societies. Should you or anyone you know be interested, please contact Rebecca on 020 7157 4847 or email: rebecca.welsh@itv.com. I will be happy vvvvvvto answer questions you may have and, of course, explain more about the project.

Rebecca Welsh Producer - ITV Factual



'Smithy' in his younger days

Picture from his family

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

LOCAL opposition to a new town is nothing new, and the apparent 'nimbyism' over the plans for Hanley Grange should come as no surprise. At first glance, it would appear that those proposing the development have got just about everything right. All sorts of words and phrases have been used to describe Hanley Grange, including eco town, carbon-neutral and pedestrian-friendly. There has even been discussion centred on the notion that, as the new town will be so lovely, inhabitants will feel little desire to get in their cars to go shopping.

Jarrow Investments (Tesco to you and I) is hoping to build 8,000 homes on the site. It would not be unreasonable to suggest that there could soon be 30,000 more people living on our doorstep. To put that figure into perspective, Haverhill recorded a population of 22,000 at the last census. The option to build a further 3,000 homes is also being looked at, bringing the numbers to something similar in size to Newmarket, Royston and Saffron Walden combined.

One requirement of this project is that around 40 per cent of the homes should be 'affordable'. Assuming that the other 60 per cent are **not** to be unaffordable, what does this mean? It is my guess that the cheaper homes are meant to appeal to those on lower incomes, perhaps young, first-time buyers trying to gain a foothold on the property ladder. The other – probably larger – homes will appeal to those with a larger family, and at least one oversized vehicle.

The inadequate transport infrastructure in our little corner of this green(ish) and pleasant land is suffering enough without being burdened with thousands more cars. The planners seem to believe this new town would be inhabited only by athletic types content to walk or cycle everywhere. However, is that really likely when their home would be bordered by three important A-roads? With the trains to London already full, and virtually no word from the Transport Secretary about expansion, the only option for commuters would be to arrive at work in their cars.

Sooner or later, surely someone will ask why it is that we need this new town, and expansions of Stansted and Heathrow, and widening of the A14. Could it be that there are too many people in this country? Could it be that there are too many people wanting to drive a car and travel overseas every year? Not so long ago, car ownership and foreign holidays were considered luxuries. Today, many consider it to be their right. Until these attitudes change, more and more of our beautiful countryside and its flora and fauna will be lost forever under the overwhelming spread of concrete and tarmac.

Local councils and the group responsible for finding areas for growth disapprove of this site, so let's hope that the might of Tesco can be resisted for a change.

Wacky races ride again



'Wackiest car' Penelope Pitstop's chariot, on its way

Picture by Roger Lapwood

THE eagerly anticipated running of the Wacky Races took place in Linton on Sunday 25th May. The weather forecast for this fun-filled fundraiser was decidedly unpleasant, but the day remained dry, if a little chilly.

Spirits were not dampened, however, but participants certainly were! Crowds gathered all along the route with some new and interesting ways of dispensing water. Some opted for the scatter bomb effect of water-filled balloons, others favoured the more accurate water pistols. Some competitors were 'armed' with their own retaliatory weapons, no doubt keen to ensure spectators could get a real feel for the event.

For the second year in succession, James Paintin and Jason Rowlinson took the chequered flag on board '4Pat' while the Buddhist monks took the award for the best costumes. The chariot decked out like Penelope Pitstop from the cartoon series took the Wackiest car title. The cool weather may have helped the winners in achieving their time of nine minutes – very nearly a course record.

After the races, several stalls kept everyone busy while the judges determined the destination of the prizes. The candyfloss and food stalls did good trade, as did the tent providing the racers with the opportunity to enjoy a rub-down.

The organiser and announcer on the day was Joel Palmer of The Crown, who was pleased with the turn-out and the competitive nature of the runners and riders. A fun day finished with live entertainment near the sports pavilion.

Around £1,500 has been raised so far. If you still have not handed in your sponsor money, please do so to Joel at the Crown as soon as you can. The Linton News will publish the final total next month.

Now's a great time to learn to swim

WANT to swim? This summer provides great opportunities to learn or just spend some time in the water – and they're all in Linton.

LINTON community sports centre has a range of activities for children over the summer holidays: -

There are swimming sessions at the Granta school pool for: - *Mother and Toddler:* Mondays from 28th July-18th August. (NB: babies must have had their six-months' check and inoculations.

Beginners: Mondays and Wednesdays from 23rd July-27th August.

Post-beginners: Mondays and Wednesdays from 23rd July-27th August.

There are also aquamobility sessions for adults. This class is ideal for mobilising joints and promotes non-impact physical activity.

Further sports centre highlights include the High School Musical 2 dance workshop from the 11th-15th August. Following the great success of the Easter workshop, the centre is joining forces with The Lane Academy, Ely, for a week-long acting, song and dance fest!

There will also be a multisport development camp in partnership with South Cambs school sports co-ordinators; Cambridge United football in the community holiday course; adventure days, archery, tennis and trampolining.

To book, or for more information please call Claire Hoskin or Mark Wilson on 890248.

The email address is info@linton-sports-fitness.co.uk

STEVE Kidman and Sue Ruggles are SAS (Steve and Sue) Swimming. Sue and Steve are experienced, friendly and fun with a passion for teaching children to swim. They have worked together for many years and now have a local venue for swimming lessons at the Granta school in the village.

Learning to swim should be paramount for every child. The earlier the child can start the better. Swimming is the perfect exercise for all ages, but most importantly, it is a life-saving skill. Children will always be fascinated by water without knowing the potential dangers. We believe every child should be given the opportunity to learn and enjoy swimming.

Children can start lessons at four, being taught in small groups for 30-minute sessions. Groups at Linton will range from non-swimmers through to improvers. The lessons are fun and progressive, thus giving a great start and a skill for life.

If you would like any further information on our lessons please contact us.

Steve 01799 501293 or Sue 07947 730287
mail@sas-swimming.co.uk <http://www.sas-swimming.co.uk>

Camera club's fantastic flower show



Picture power: the camera club's floral display

Picture by Ron Pitkin

LINTON Camera Club members put on a photographic exhibition for the Flower Festival last month, a fantastic display of flower pictures, some exotic and unusual as well as the more common varieties seen in our gardens.

Being a new member, having bought myself an SLR camera earlier this year, it was a fantastic opportunity to display some of my pictures and get feedback from more experienced photographers in the club. I enjoyed doing the exhibition and look forward to the next one in October at the village hall, so come along and see more pictures then.

The club would like to thank those who wrote complimentary comments in our visitor's book; they were most appreciated and we are glad you enjoyed our display.

The club meets on the first Monday of the month in the Cathedral centre at 7.15pm. For more information, visit our website www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk or phone Roger 891104 or Tracey 891988.

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Readers write ... Readers write

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

What happened to Sarah Ann?

Dear Editor
LINTON played a big part in the life of my great-grandparents, Canon and Mrs FFMS Thornton. In the early years of the 1900s, especially during the First World War, Canon Thornton was chairman of Linton Rural District Council, chairman of the East Coast Defence Committee, chairman of the Poor Law Institution Committee, chairman of the Tribunal and District Special Constables and chairman of the Guardians and District Council.
He was vicar of Shudy Camps and also canon of Ely Cathedral. But there is a mystery surrounding the good man. He was actually born in Germany in 1846 and we have no idea what happened to him until he appeared at Trinity College Dublin in 1872, studying theology.
In the census of 1901, 22-year-old Sarah Ann

Rodwell is recorded as Canon Thornton's chambermaid, but by the time of his death at The Park, Shudy Camps in 1938, she is not only the housekeeper but also executor of his will. He left her all his personal papers ... and within them, there may well be a clue as to his German past.

I wonder if anyone knows what happened to Sarah Ann - who was born in Boughton, Norfolk in 1878 - after his death in 1938? I have been told she moved to the Cambridge area but I would love to hear if anyone knows of her ultimate fate and whether any of her surviving relatives might still hold the answers to my mystery.
Robin Thornton
robin.thornton@primepr.co.uk
Old Way House
Appledore
Kent TN26 2DB

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor
Thank you from Save the Children. Our house-to-house collection raised the very encouraging sum of £1666.64.
We are most grateful to Linton and Hadstock residents for their generosity and awareness of the ongoing, and growing need for Save the Children's work worldwide, including the UK.
Anna Newton
Horn Lane

Dear Editor
Carol and Alex Todd would like to thank everybody who supported them at home for the coffee morning on 5th June to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Research Trust. We raised a grand total of £450.
It was fortunate that the weather was excellent and everybody enjoyed sitting out in the garden for the event.
Alex Todd
Hollybush Way



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CAN YOUR MECHANIC SAY THAT?

A wet summer's evening encourages gardeners



RAIN and more rain, but that didn't dampen the spirits of Linton WI who turned out despite the weather to enjoy a talk and slide show by Peter Jackson from Scotsdales.

The meeting began with Trisha Lewis in the chair and Cynthia Norris taking the minutes. The last meeting's were read and approved. A report on the group meeting at Abington was given by Anne Harmer, an excellent meeting and Linton won the competition with an entry written and read by Margaret Clark. Trisha read this to the members.

A coffee morning will be held at June Bunn's on 17th July. The visit to Elton Hall is now full and there is a waiting list. Menus to be chosen as soon as possible and given to Bel Griffiths. CFWI News and diaries must be paid for by July at the latest, and there was a reminder about *Curtain Up* by Federation Players at 7.30pm on 11th, 12th and 13th June at Barton village hall.

Our interesting and informative speaker, Peter Jackson, was delighted it was wet as he hadn't brought any drought-loving plants with him. Due to spiralling costs of energy, fuel, transport etc. more people are looking to grow their own produce and he told us how to grow mixed salad, beans, tomatoes, peppers chillies etc. in tubs. These should last all summer. He showed us slides of plants that will grow well in this area, and also pictures of pests that plague our gardens and how to identify and deal with them.

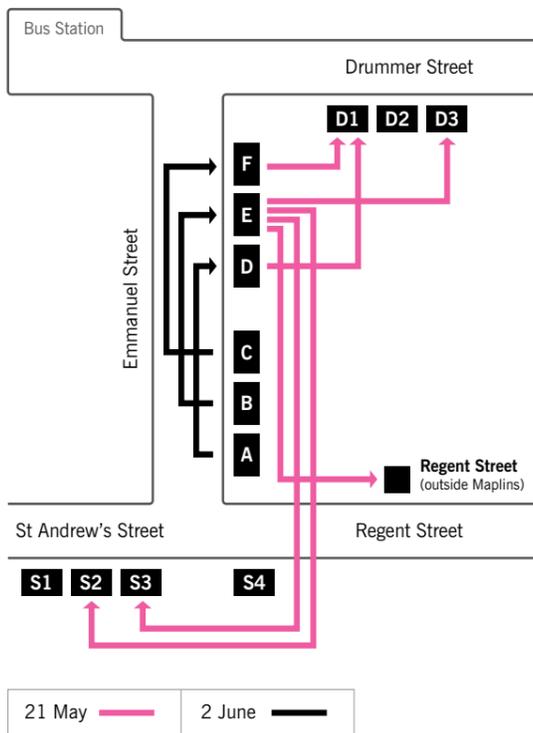
Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on 5th August when the subject is Bombs at Teatime, a National Archive film. It will be an open meeting and everyone is welcome. Do join us.

Tricia Lewis

Bus stops resited

AS part of the Cambridge council's ongoing alterations to Cambridge city centre, there have been major changes to Emmanuel Street, Drummer Street and St Andrews Street bus interchange.

For full details please look at the map below.



If you have any questions about the changes, please contact Cambridge Projects on 814498.



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LINTON DIARY

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

Details of items in bold type may be found elsewhere in this edition. You may also send an email with your event details to diary@linton.info, or use the form on www.linton.info

WEEKLY

Junior badminton, 10am-12noon Sundays	SC
Adult tennis coaching, Sundays (call 07791 150141)	SC
Pilates, 10 and 11.15am Mondays	VH
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Men's all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays	SC
Ladies' netball, 7-9pm Mondays	SC
Linton Granta toddlers, 10am Tuesdays and Thursdays term time	LVC
Hadstock toddler group, 2-3.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hadstock VH
Ladies' football, 7-8pm Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	CC
Tae Kwon Do, 6-8pm Tuesdays and Thursdays	SC
Ladies' badminton, 8-10pm Tuesdays	SC
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Yoga, 7.30pm Tuesdays term time	Hildersham VH
Yoga, 1-2.45pm Wednesdays term time	VH
Bowling roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays	Pavilion
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Men's keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays	SC
Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays	(call 892076)
Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time	VH
Music Matters, 9.45am & 11am Thursdays	VH
LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays	SC
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
Rhyme'n'rhymn tots music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 term time	URC Hall
Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays	SC
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC
Tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays term time	VH
Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays	SC

For Sports Centre courses please call 890248

JULY

5 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
5-6 Open studio, 10am	Windmill House, Long Lane
7 Camera club 7.15pm	CC
8 VIP group, 2pm	Chalklands
11 Summer fair, 5-8pm	Linton Heights
12-13 Open studio, 10am	Windmill House, Long Lane
14 Dads and tots, 9.30am	VH
16 CAMTAD hearing help, 9am-12noon	HC
16 Storytime for under fives, 2.15pm	Library
17 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC
18 Ladies' tanning launch, 7-9pm	SC
19 Enrolment for team read	Library
19-20 Open studio, 10am	Windmill House, Long Lane
26-27 Balsham open gardens, 10.30am-5.30pm	Balsham
29 ACE garden party, 2.30-4.30pm	7 Symonds Lane

AUGUST

2 Farmers' market, 9.30am	LVC
2 Gardening club show, 2.30pm	VH
4 Camera club, 9.30am	Coles Lane car park
5 WI, 7.30pm	VH
7 Luncheon club, 12.15	The Crown
7 Parish council meeting, 8pm	CC

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

Refuse collection: 7th, 21st July and 4th August. Recycling collection: 14th, 28th July.

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...
THIS month's offers include a Philips hostess trolley with serving dishes and warming cupboard and a free-standing wooden school desk with lift-up-lid. The Samsung fax machine/photocopier, the black leather-look office swivel chair and the shopper bike - no street cred but nippy - are still available.
The Dell computer monitor raised £12.50 for Magpas and the Royal Worcester utensil pot (ex jumble sale) made £5 for Linton Guides.
To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please contact me:
Kate France 891602
or email katefrance@linton48.freeseve.co.uk

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Improve your area with a Donarbon grant

If you are a not-for-profit organisation looking for grant funding for a capital project, you may be eligible to apply for cash from the Donarbon Community Fund.

The fund, run by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, manages and receives landfill tax credits from Donarbon Waste Management and uses the money to make grants under set criteria. The Donarbon Community Fund will fund projects in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that are within 10 miles of a landfill site.

Grants are available for the following schemes:

- The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other general public amenity
- The conservation of a specific species or a specific habitat where it naturally occurs
- The repair, maintenance or restoration of a place of worship or a place of architectural importance.

Grants will normally be for up to £20,000, although in exceptional circumstances, support to projects may be offered at a higher level. If you wish to apply for a grant, you need to be able to contribute 10% of the value of the grant you are seeking.

The first stage in getting a grant is to complete an expression of interest form. This form, along with guidance notes and more general information, can be obtained from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (421588) www.cambscf.org.uk. The panel who will meet to consider grant requests meets on a quarterly basis in early July, October, January and April.

Kirsty in the lead

TWENTY-year-old Kirsty Wright of Paynes Meadow is taking one of the lead parts in the Skyblue Theatre Company's production of Oliver at the Cambridge Corn Exchange from Thurs-Sat 10th to 12th July.

Kirsty has been selected to take the part of Nancy by producer, Francis Brownlie, well-known local drama producer and founder of the Sawston Players.

She has known Kirsty since she became a member of Dramawise when she was only seven years old.

Kirsty, a former LVC pupil, has always been interested in the stage. She is currently studying musical theatre in London and has been accepted by the Guildford School of Acting for a course starting in September.



LNT Kirsty Wright as Nancy

Fantasy flowers in Balsham

BALSHAM is holding a flower festival and open gardens weekend from 10.30am-5.30pm on Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th July in aid of funds for the Holy Trinity church. Flower arrangements with a theme of Fantasy will be on show in the church on both days, and the Balsham Institute will be open and providing drinks and refreshments.

Programmes of the gardens on show will be available and posters outside homes will indicate which gardens are on show. For further details, contact 890024, or ring Mick on 891155.



An unusual friend for with Katie Fletcher

Picture by Roger Lapwood

Billy the beetle makes his debut

LINTON Guides were among the first to view Billy the elephant beetle at Linton zoo.

On a very wet Tuesday evening, 2nd Linton Guides enjoyed a special late opening at the zoo, and had a good view of the animals, birds and reptiles.

The Guides were delighted to see the 12cm long insect with a horn 4cm long, a native of the rainforest of

Costa Rica, occasionally flexing its wings, emphasizing its size.

A rare find in England, it is unlikely Billy will find a mate before he dies as the mature insect has a lifespan of only eight months.

The chances of finding a mate in his native environment are also poor as out of perhaps 10 grubs, only one will be female.

Kate France

A chance to have your say ...

The Linton News would like to remind you that it represents a voice for the whole village. With this in mind, we would welcome any contributions readers might care to make to the Granta Ranta comment pieces and the Grand Day Out articles.

These items are not the work of a single individual on the LN team; rather they are meant to reflect the opinions and experiences of all our readers.

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Chef's corner
with Joel

THE provenance of food that we buy and use these days has become more and more of an issue. We all want to eat healthy foods and we all want to be seen doing the right thing for our carbon footprint. But, for some, it does seem to come at a price, and with rising costs of just about everything else, you might ask 'Where do we stop?'

So, I've done a little looking around for an English breed of cattle that has risen from all the past misery of cattle woe and stands out as the clear winner of a single breed that is still affordable and has all the qualities of any Scottish cattle.

Time and time again people have asked in the restaurant how we cook the blade of beef and how get it so tender, along with other enquiries and, being a true professional, not all the information is given up. After all we can't let all the secrets out of the bag, can we?

This time, we think it is a good idea to let the readers know the recipe of ...

Slow braised blade of beef with confit of roasted vegetables

One full blade will feed up to 10 people, so ask your butcher to cut you as many steaks as you need. This recipe will feed four people. The blade is cut from the flank.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 blade steaks (8oz / 200g) | ½ bag baby spinach |
| 1 pint (500ml) good beef stock | 3 large carrots |
| 1 sprig thyme, 1 bay leaf | 3 large parsnips |
| ½oz plain flour | 1 tbs honey |
| ½oz butter | 1 tbs grain mustard |
| 1 tsp tomato puree | Glug of olive oil |
| 4 large potatoes (mashed) | 1 large glass red wine |

Place the seasoned steaks into a hot ovenproof dish so they are seared on both sides. This can be done on the stove top. Pour the stock and the herbs on to the steaks, so they are covered by the liquid.

This can now be covered by a lid or foil and placed in a moderate oven at 175C/350F/Gas 3-4 for three hours. During this time, you can peel the vegetables and cut them into chunky fingers; this helps to give the dish a rustic feel. Season well. Roll the veg in the mustard, honey and oil. Place in a separate oven dish ready for later.

When the beef has become tender and falls away quite nicely (approx 2½ hours) it is time to put the vegetables into the oven for about 20-30 minutes, depending on how well cooked you want them. Now the mashed potato can be made and kept warm. Remove the beef and allow to rest in its juice.

A quick sauce can be made by gently mixing the flour and butter in a thick bottomed pan until there are no lumps (it should resemble putty). Remove this from the pan and add half the wine (you might want to drink the rest). Reduce the wine by about half and slowly whisk in the putty mix. Now add the tomato purée. Next gradually add some stock from the steak dish until the required consistency is achieved. This is a very basic red wine gravy.

Now it's time to dish up. Stir the spinach into the root vegetables then place on the plate with a serving of potato. The beautifully tender steaks can now go at the side carefully dressed with the gravy.

Served with a good glass of full strength French Fleurie. This is an affordable and conscience-free meal for you to enjoy with your friends and family alike.

Bon appetit!

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The shape of things to come: how the site will look, by permission of Mouchel Parkman

IN order to complete the archaeological digs around the school site, boarding has gone up around the sports centre.

The reason for this is to ensure the safety of pupils, staff and all community users on the LVC site.

Access to the sports centre is now by way of the school driveway across the front of school, then follow the path/road down beside Granta school, where the

entrance path is to the side of the boarding.

Signposting has been placed around the site to allow pedestrians to follow the route.

Car parking is still available on the site in the suitable spaces. Linton based users may wish to go green, and consider walking or cycling to the sports centre.

We wish to thank all of our users for their patience. Work

on this phase will be completed by September 2009, when most of the parking will be restored, and access will be back to normal.

If you wish to hear more about the construction project, or have any comments regarding the sports centre, please e-mail the sports centre at info@linton-sport-fitness.co.uk or call me.

Mark Wilson 890248

Challenge for all our young readers

THIS year's reading challenge takes a sporting theme to encourage children to get active and get reading.

The challenge is the UK's biggest reading initiative and annually reaches more than 650,000 children. It works by encouraging them to sign up for the Team Read challenge at their local library and receive a much-coveted "moving image" membership card.

They are then encouraged to read up to six books over the holiday, working their way through bronze and silver stages to gold.

They are offered incentives along the way, such as stickers and activity sheets to encourage them to complete Team Read.

Library staff will be on hand to help advise children and there are linked activities throughout the summer to encourage children into libraries.

All children who read at least six books will receive a certificate and medal at special presentation ceremonies.

Please call in to your local library for further details. Enrolment begins on Saturday 19th July.

POT POURRI (42)

What distance?

TWO cars are travelling at constant but different speeds from A and B. They first meet seven miles from A and next meet two miles from B. Assume there are no delays in starting or turn-around time at A and B. What is the distance from A to B?

Solution to No 41: Triangular perimeter?

The perimeter of the triangle is 79.373cm. The solution has many forms: Pythagorean, Ptolemaic and the cosine equation.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tune to Music Matters!

IT has been an exciting first year for local music sessions Music Matters! On Thursday mornings, toddlers and young children with their parents and carers have enjoyed musical fun and learning at the village hall.

This last year has also seen the music group reach out in other ways. Alongside the weekly music classes, Music Matters! has introduced new mums and babies to the benefits of music and singing as part of the Linton and Sawston post-natal groups.

One new venture for August will be Music Matters! Summer Sessions, where parents and carers can bring their under fives (older siblings welcome) along to the village hall on either 7th, 14th or 28th August for a morning of music and play.

Meanwhile, from September, classes will restart for a new term of musical activity. If you want to find out more, please contact music.matters@virgin.net or call me.

Emma Mason 893140

Limber up with Pilates

PILATES strengthens the core muscles that help with posture to protect and strengthen the spine. It will increase flexibility, improve your balance, help with relaxation and give a feeling of well-being. I am continuing to run my Pilates classes at Linton village hall on a Monday morning through July and into the first week of August. So if you have been attending this class and wish to continue, please let me know. If you would like to join, call me to discuss availability.

Jane Forsey 07949 959879

Come to our summer fair

LINTON Heights junior school is holding its annual summer fair from 5-8pm on Friday 11th July. Stalls include quad bikes, bouncy castle and slide, face painting, tombola, barbecue, bar, refreshments and much more. Funds raised will go towards school equipment. It promises to be a fun event for all the family to enjoy. We hope to see you there.

Vicky Linsdell

Are you expecting a baby?

IF you are pregnant and your baby is due between November and early March next year, you may be interested in taking part in a programme in which medical students learn from expectant mothers. Over the past six years, more than 700 women have helped students develop a wider understanding of the experience of pregnancy and childbirth by hearing directly from mothers-to-be. (No physical examination is involved). If you are interested, please contact me.

Joanna Griffiths 769285/769288

Aces show their mellow side

AS expected, 12th June was wet. In fact, it was bucketing down. But that did not deter our hardy ACES from their coach trip to Wisbech; brave souls. By the time we had passed Ely, we had dried out and the driver had organised better weather for us. In fact, we even had sunshine ... sometimes.

Wisbech is a historic market town, with some stunning buildings. Those along the River Nene include Peckover House and splendid Georgian edifices. There are historic churches, and a crescent that rivals Bath for beauty, though just a little smaller. Many visited the Fenland Museum with its displays on the anti-slavery campaigner, Thomas Clarkson, death masks of Oliver Cromwell, Isaac Newton and other local luminaries, and many curios.

Then we went to Elgood's Brewery, just along the river. The gardens are splendid with a spectacular lake, rare trees and plants. The roses were at their peak and the scent was every-

where. Don't mention the maze - I thought that we had lost at least half the party, including myself.

However, the highlight was the trip around the maltings to see the brewing process. Just why everyone emerged quite so pink-cheeked and animated, I really do not know. Anyway, after a few more tastings, we were quite mellow and in a mood to enjoy the trip home, through beautiful countryside in the afternoon sunlight. Who minds the weather when you are in such good company? Many thanks to Jan Sheppard, and all who organised the trip.

The next event is a garden party is from 2.30-4.30pm on Tuesday 29th July at 7 Symond's Lane. Yes, I have been volunteered again! There will be a cream tea, with homemade scones, a raffle, bring-and-buy and other stalls - all welcome and transport available. Bring umbrellas, just in case!

Enid Bald 891069

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Vegetables compete for places at last year's show

Picture by Ron Pitkin

You can't win it if you're not in it ...

COME and join us for the 66th annual gardening club show at 2.30pm on 2nd August in the village hall and see what fun it is to compete. We had 442 exhibits last year from 79 entrants with several exhibitors entering for the first time and winning prizes.

There are many classes on offer from vegetables, fruit, flowers, pot plants, floral arrangements, to baking and preserves, photography, handicrafts, art and children's classes. So there is something for everyone.

You can enter a single class or as many as you like – it is so annoying to go home knowing your tomatoes would have won if only you had put them in! There are cups and modest monetary prizes to be won, but it is the prize card and the fun of entering that counts.

Do not forget the whole family can join in too. There were 26 junior exhibitors last year, showing things from charming miniature gardens to wonderful animals made from fruit and vegetables. Age is no bar – children as young as 18 months have entered decorated digestive biscuits! There is even a class for groups such as playgroups, schools or for a family to enter together.

Schedules giving details of all you need to know and entry forms are available from Susan Anderson, 891623 and Alex Todd, 892979. Entry forms must be received by Susan Anderson no later than 8pm on Thursday 31st July.

If you are not sure about entering this year, why not come along on the day to see the wonderful things that local people are able to produce. It may inspire you for next year!

Kirsten Newble 892425
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Personal touch for home furnishings

MY new little local business called Soft Stuff will supply hand-made soft furnishings – curtains, blinds, lampshades and cushions.

I hope to persuade people to look beyond the rather bland ready-made and stick their necks out a bit for something unique.

Costs will include a free consultation to discuss design and I will source good quality, interesting fabrics from the best suppliers.

I intend to remain a one-woman operation, based at home, and give plenty of time and attention to each project.

I'm not in it to build an empire – just to keep myself busy working from home, now that I've given up the

more demanding world of criminal defence.

I've always been good at sewing, mostly clothes for myself and friends, but these days no one wants dressmaking, so I decided to transfer my skills.

I recently did some courses with Cambridge Fine Furnishings (I highly recommend them to anyone interested) to get familiar with professional techniques.

I've just finished making all the Roman blinds for my new house, and several lamp shades and cushions for friends.

Now I'm ready to take on some business. For more information, please call me.

**Sarah Baker-Smith
890808**



Sarah's workroom, showing samples of her work

Picture supplied by Sarah

Fun and games at the fête



In full swing: the Hadstock Silver Band entertains

Picture supplied by Richard Partridge

HADSTOCK was full of fun and games on 14th June, when good weather brought out a very large crowd to enjoy nearly 40 events and activities at the annual fête, which raised an impressive £6,000 for the village hall and Hadstock church fabric funds.

Music was provided by the Hadstock Silver Band, and activities included archery training, metal detecting for old coins, golf and rugby games, and there were many popular stalls including a huge bric-a-brac selection, a teddy bear tombola, cakes and potted plants. The stalls all reported a busy and enjoyable afternoon.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the auction, which alone raised £1,500. Top lots included a tour of the Palace of Westminster with Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, and a private concert by local jazz star Joanna Eden.

Children tested their skills on the hoop-la and the shooting range, and there were large fairground swings and the ever-popular face painting. Some impressive bowling at the Crazy Kitchen resulted in a large quantity of smashed plates – is it possible we were looking at tomorrow's cricketing talent?

Children were also given the opportunity to handle the pets brought along by the Saffron Walden farm club and to explore vehicles brought along by the fire brigade and police.

Most of the villagers were involved with this increasingly successful event, which was also well supported by donations from nearly 50 local companies and organisations. The fête committee would like to thank all those who helped to make this yet another great day.

Richard Partridge

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Spanish evening for Save the Children

A DISMAL midsummer's evening failed to dampen the spirits of the local Save the Children committee and their guests, who celebrated a Spanish style midsummer fiesta at Linton House. Dr and Mrs Bertram kindly opened their home for the event and, along with members of their family, joined the guests to show them around the wildfowl collection and the extensive grounds.

More than 70 fiesta-goers were treated to a wide

selection of Spanish dishes including tapas, tortilla and patatas, all prepared and served by committee members.

The feasting was accompanied by classical Spanish guitar music from Adrian White and Andrew Dann, and to drink, what else but Sangria, as well as white and red wine. All of this created a delightful atmosphere in which the guests could relax and socialise.

The event is expected to raise several hundred pounds

for Save the Children, a charity aimed at making the lives of children around the world (including the UK) better, by improving their health and education, and addressing issues such as child labour and poverty.

The committee is planning a series of coffee mornings later in the year for those who enjoy a little socialising for charity. Watch the Linton News diary for dates.

LNT

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Sold

Own a piece of Linton with this print of cricket on the meadow



Local artist Neil Gardener with the print which he has donated for auction

Picture submitted by Esther Cox

AS you will be aware from previous articles, Linton Village Junior Cricket Club has well over 100 players practising and playing every week. For many years the club has aspired to purchase a bowling machine to improve the batting technique of the young players. Following its first fund-raising event in May the club was finally able to achieve that goal.

The evening took the form of a Race Night with fish and chip supper and included a silent auction. The organisers were delighted with the support they received both from parents and local businesses who sponsored races and provided prizes for the auction.

Tickets sold out and with a final profit in excess of £2000 the club has, with the collaboration of the college, taken delivery of a bowling machine which the children and coaches are already putting to very effective use.

One of the most popular items offered for auction was a limited edition print taken from an original watercolour by local artist Neil Gardener depicting a game of cricket played in front of the pavilion on the meadow in Linton. Neil, who also coaches the Under 11 team, has waived any fee so that all proceeds may directly benefit the club. Many Linton residents will have a

great affinity with the meadow and this is an excellent opportunity to purchase a highly evocative village scene.

If you were unable to attend the evening but would be interested in one of the prints, they can still be viewed and purchased through the Darryl Nantais Gallery in the High Street or by contacting the club's secretary Esther Cox on 891499. The gallery has also kindly offered to market the pictures free of any selling commission and it is hoped that monies raised from the sale of these prints may be used to purchase new practice nets for the club.

Esther Cox

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams

We can learn a lot from ants ...

THEY are so common we hardly give them a second thought, that is, until they infest our houses! These sweet toothed little foragers want your jam, cakes and sugar and will go to any lengths to get them. We are talking 'ants' and any of more than 30 species that inhabit our island.

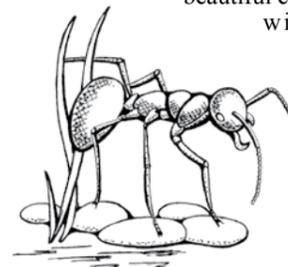
In French we call them '*les fourmis*', and, for example, red ants are known as '*fourmis rouges*', so called, because of their high content of formic acid, used especially as a stinging medium for defence. It was the naturalist John Ray in 1667 who boiled up a few of the pesky little creatures to find out this amazing fact. His curiosity may have been kindled by words from the Bible in Proverbs 6:6. "Go to the ant, you lazy one; see its ways and become wise."

Having lifted a concrete slab exposing a nest I sat and pondered this busy little society, but my mind wandered to the grass growing by an electricity cable and noticed how strong the blades of green were closest to the wire.

Had this exposure caused this extra growth? I imagined sprout plants as tall as trees and runner beans climbing low voltage cables growing to four feet long. Then I thought perhaps it was simply the heat from the cables that had encouraged this

excess, or possibly even the electricity had acted as a kind of insecticide.

Looking back at the amazing but now exposed ants' nest in turmoil, caused by the actions of a big bad giant I felt rather guilty. What right had I to rip the roof off their beautiful city with



its finely crafted tunnel walls, cells and nurseries, leaving the occupants in absolute panic? And panic it was, but like humans when disaster strikes, they were working unselfishly to establish order. Within minutes, thousands of these tiny black creatures were gathering their food and future offspring, transporting them to the safety of a nearby rock, covering the eggs with leaves.

One cannot help but admire their hard work, personal hygiene, social interaction and dedication for the good of their political system ensuring survival. Ants take care of each other. If one gets injured

or too tired to carry out its task it will be carried back and placed in a cell where others will watch over it until it is better. The honeypot ant goes one better by having special workers that carry food around for the others to sustain them on the job.

In France as a youngster, one of my chores at home would be to top up the water in the jars in which the table legs rested. Sometimes I observed the ants bringing debris and glueing pieces together to form a bridge. In fact they would even float on to the water and interlock while others marched over them! The ants in that region were four or five times the size of the garden ants we find here.

However, there is another species known as Pharaoh's ants that cause us giants some distress. These pale brown or yellow ants are tiny by comparison, being only 1.5mm long as opposed to the garden ant of about 4mm. Over the last two centuries they appear to have moved further and further northwards, attracted quite possibly by warmer conditions.

This may not be natural climate change but more centrally heated houses and hot factories enabling this migration, or is it the electricity? The other remarkable difference is, in Pharaoh's ant society, all the workers are female!

Well, within the hour not a single ant was to be seen in their old city site, but a skinny blackbird merrily pecked away at the ruins. Somewhere, a new one was being formed.

As for the wisdom of an ant? The co-operation and harmony I note in their world speaks for itself, but what if we could converse, in French or English, just for one day? What would they tell us? Until next month, keep your honeypots and sugar locked up.

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Summer academy is here

AFTER the huge success of the Musical Theatre summer workshop at Linton village college last year, the academy is returning this year when the theme will be *The Jungle Book*.

The workshop week, involving involve daily classes in movement, drama, voice training and ensemble rehearsal, will take place from 9.30am-5.30pm on Monday 4th August until Friday 8th August.

On the final afternoon, there will be an opportunity to give a live performance to family and friends. The academy is open to young

people aged 8-16. You don't need any experience but you do need to be enthusiastic.

The workshops will be run by an experienced team of creative professionals, led by Gillian Hunter, and a full pastoral team will be on hand. All members of staff have CRB clearance.

For an application form and more information, please contact.

Lesley Morgan
arts development manager for the Broadening Education (BE) Partnership, on 12825 or email lmorgan@sawstonvc.org

Jazzing up the flower festival



Hitting the right note: Linton Jazz entertains the public during the recent flower festival

Picture by Roger Lapwood

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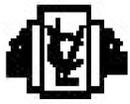
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The Derbyshire Post

I AM afraid to say that the Linton News is about to become every postmodern. This column begins a dialogue with another column – last month's Granta Ranta to be precise. The anonymity of the Ranta stands in stark contrast to the very open nature of my own monthly musings and it was just as well last month because the rant was directed at education, standards and the English that young people speak. I am sure the Ranta's tongue was firmly in his or her cheek, but in defence of young people I will put this on record ...

Some, and not by any means all, schools have enjoyed improving results at GCSE in recent years and those of us whose secondary education is now behind us sometimes find it hard to accept that standards in education are improving. As a teacher of 18 years I have seen the change happen with my own eyes. Teaching, 18 years ago, was generally quite poor in standard and learning suffered. Nowadays, teaching in many schools including our own, is excellent; the resources are better, the presentation is slick and students are kept busy and involved. A revolution in teaching has happened, so it isn't really surprising that students are better learners than we ever used to be. In fact, nowadays, we actually teach children to learn in 'learning to learn' classes. Better learners get better results. That doesn't mean, however, that they have the same knowledge that we had when we were at school. Much of what we learned was of little use to us in real life, but today we focus on teaching skills that can be transferred.

I wonder, Granta Ranta, if you, like me, had the benefit of an English degree? If you did, you will have studied our language and discovered many wonderful things about it:

- That having an accent does not mean you are stupid. It just tells us where you came from

- That using slang with your friends does not mean that you cannot access standard English as and when it is appropriate to do so. Shakespeare and Ben Jonson used slang richly

- That language changes over time ... words and phrases appear and then disappear as usage and custom changes. Shakespeare invented a large number of words himself, some of which the language adopted and others that it did not.

A little learning is a dangerous thing, but a good education which results in fantastic GCSEs ought not to be something we disparage, but celebrate.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal

Six-a-side football goes green

LEISURE Leagues, who have just started a brand new league at the Linton community complex, have decided to combat the problem of global warming head-on by making their on-the-road operations 'carbon neutral'. This means that trees will be planted to redress the balance of CO₂ pumped into the atmosphere by the company's promotional vans.

Trees will be planted on the new multi-million pound, 17 acre woodland at its European headquarters site in Warwickshire.

Executive director of Leisure Leagues, Stephanie Bullock, said; "A scheme like this is nowhere near as expensive as we thought it would be. If more companies attempted to become carbon neutral as we are, the threat of global warming would be significantly reduced."

So far, there are eight teams in the league from Linton and surrounding villages. For more information on playing in the environmentally friendly league in Linton, go to www.leisure-leagues.net or call Adam or Andy on 0845 230 2340.

The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

And you thought driving today was dangerous

BEFORE the 1930s the main cause of death on our roads was an accident involving horse-drawn transport.

My own maternal grandfather, John Ashton was crushed to death at the age of 54 years by the wheels of his own wagon near Tiverton in Devon. My maternal grandmother was left a widow with 11 children, five of whom were under the age of 10 years.

Such tragedies were commonplace in the pre-motor vehicle era. I thought readers would be interested in local Linton examples and I apologise if some of the incidents are a little too gory. Readers need to be reminded that main road traffic then went through the Grip to Saffron Walden and along the High Street to Haverhill.

In October 1825 Mrs Elizabeth Nicholls, the wife of Mr George Nicholls of 100 High Street was returning from Saffron Walden with two of her

children in her pony chaise. The driver of a broad-wheeled wagon coming in the opposite direction along the Hadstock Road, had fallen asleep and collided with Mrs Nicholls' chaise. Elizabeth was thrown out and crushed under the wagon wheels. The two children in the chaise escaped injury, and George was left a widower with seven young children.

Young people were often the victims since they were usually employed to lead the horses. In June 1828 Richard Kifford, a lad aged 14 years was leading a horse and cart conveying furniture through Linton when he slipped, fell down and the wheels of the cart passed over his body.

Runaway waggons were another danger, especially for children playing in the streets. In July 1836 two-year-old Daniel Casbolt was run over by a wagon in Linton High Street. The horse had been left unattended by the driver.

Sometimes the horses themselves were the victims. In April 1844 an accident occurred at the Linton chalk pit, located in the Hadstock Road by the present day industrial estate. A cart from Burwell was being loaded with whiting when it fell into the unfenced fifty foot deep chalk pit. The horse was killed instantly.

Even simple actions like opening a farm gate to let a wagon through could lead to an unexpected tragedy. In December 1848 Thomas Reader aged 78 years opened a gate for a cart on Mr Casbolt's farm when the horse suddenly rushed forward and jammed him against the gatepost. He was trampled to the ground and sustained cuts and bruises to his face and two ribs were broken. He died one week later.

Being drunk in charge of a horse and cart was a frequent occurrence. Samuel Cracknell was an employee of Mr Clayden at Barham Hall Farm,

and had been sent to Audley End station to collect two tons of cotton cake. On his return to Linton around 4.30pm many witnesses observed that he was very drunk. Close to the gates of Barham Hall he fell from the shafts under the wheels of the wagon and was killed instantly. He left a widow and three children. Some seven years previously his brother had died in a similar fashion.

A final case in May 1866 again demonstrates the part drink played in many road accidents. A Cambridge youth called Robert Shelduck was on his way to Haverhill with a load of building materials and timber. He stopped off for refreshment at the Wagon and Horses beerhouse and decided to feed the horse before setting off again. As he fixed on the nosebag the horse bolted and he foolishly hung on to the shaft. He soon fell off and the cart wheels crushed him to death.

Get your tan safely at the ladies' launch evening

HAVE you ever thought how nice it would be to achieve a great tan without going abroad or waiting for the sun to shine in England? Well now you can!

I, like most people, simply love the healthy glow that the sun can give. However with recent adverse publicity about sunbeds and the dangers of the sun's rays I'm very concerned about the long-term damage they can cause. I thought there must be another way to acquire a beautiful, natural and safe tan so I started researching and came across an innovation in tanning – mobile spray tanning. I completed my training and qualified as a spray tan therapist, fully supported by a well

established company.

I am now ready to make you feel and look gorgeous with a safe, natural and lasting tan with solutions to suit every skin tone. The service is mobile; I come to you and in less than half an hour you will have a beautiful tan with no mess. Choose an all-over tan or wear your bikini; the choice is yours.

I am available to do tanning parties with some great offers and incentives where a few friends get together for an enjoyable evening. I also offer one to one home tanning and bridal packages. So whether it's an evening with your friends, pre holidays,

weddings or for a prom night you can get a beautiful tan. Gift vouchers are available. I will also consider charity or fund raising events.

I would like to invite you to come along to my ladies launch event to see some tanning demonstrations, view my products and ask any questions. Please join me for a glass of champagne in the therapy room at Linton community sports centre, from 7pm-9pm on Friday 18th July. I look forward to seeing you there.

In the meantime if you would like to book your spray tan please call me.

Kate Wright, 893633
e-mail: k8@tesco.net



An operative just waiting for you

Picture by Kate Wright

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S/0806/08/F Mr P Whiffen, 18 Bawtree Crescent, Linton. Extension.

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Parish Council Matters

Looking after the Assets

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



AS it is up to me to enlighten you on another aspect of the council's functions I'm going to give you an insight into the assets it controls, and how one in particular is run. The council's assets are many and varied to cater for the needs of Linton parishioners. Some are of an open space nature, grass land like the recreation ground, bowling green, cemetery and Leadwell Meadows, others are buildings such as the Cathodeon Centre and sports pavilion, although this is not a complete list. The parish council also leases the Glebe land by Horn Lane bridge.

This report is about the sports pavilion and its surroundings. Cllr Cornell and I are the parish council's representatives on the lease holders' committee and we oversee the running of the facilities and report back to council if necessary.

The bowling green is leased to the bowls club, the football and cricket clubs hold licences to participate in organised matches on the recreation ground. They look after these areas but this does not stop others using the facilities. Permission would normally be required from the relevant club and parish council before other organised games may be played.

The pavilion is leased to the football club, which is in charge of the building. The current brick structure replaced the old wooden pavilion many years ago before I became a councillor. This happened when Dr Cox was the council representative, and the work was completed with the assistance of the sports clubs who had used the dilapidated old pavilion onto which the new changing rooms and toilets were built to the rear.

Later they decided they could afford a new club room and the old one was demolished.

I can remember when I first became a councillor in the late 80s there were many discussions about how we could leave the toilet doors unlocked for public use, but this became impossible as the toilets were constantly being filled by pranksters with the grass cuttings, although luckily no actual damage was ever done.

The football club, or to use its full title Linton Granta Association Football Club, holds the pavilion lease which includes the changing areas, and the licences give them exclusive use of the pitch and training areas from September to April. However, if the Linton Hospital Cup, (an invitation knock out football competition for local invited teams) is being contested, the final can be played in May

by special permission even though the cricketers' licence gives them exclusive use from May to August.

The bowls club also has the use of the building and other sports clubs can book it too. The use by any sporting group of the pavilion has always been free on the basis that they leave it as they find it. Others who have used it in the past or who currently use it are the Junior Aztec's, Cambridge FA Ladies' team, Aztecs Senior and the 'Old Boys' club, and now the junior cricket club which is becoming very popular with the youngsters uses it three nights a week.

How are the bills covered? As a sporting establishment the rates are very low thanks to South Cams District Council. Electricity, which in the last year has more than doubled in cost, water, sewage and repairs have, as far as

I'm aware, always been paid for by the football club from proceeds from the bar; in fact most bills are paid for from these profits.

The football club runs various money raising events throughout the year and the cricket club runs two main events, one in conjunction with the football club when the two clubs play each other at cricket. This is the Mick Goodman Memorial Match commemorating a cricketer no longer with us, to be held on Sunday 13th July this year. The other is the President's Cup when the president's eleven play the cricket club's Captain's eleven to be held on Sunday 3rd August this year. Both events have contributed greatly towards the running costs of the pavilion and boosted club funds.

The sad note to all this is that this year the pavilion has

been broken into seven times, one being an arson attack on the front door. It was a miracle that the building was not burnt down. CCTV has now been installed inside and out. Most of the repair costs were borne by the club although some had to be passed to the parish council for an insurance claim.

Other events that have in the past been held are members' birthday parties, and some of the other clubs that use the pavilion also run their own fund raisers; one night I'm sure I saw Elvis in the pavilion!

All this effort goes to ensure that sporting men, women and youngsters can continue to use the pavilion free of charge. Booking the pavilion is done by an entry in the diary kept in the kitchen; if your name goes in first and the club committee agrees then you get use of this excellent facility

Cllr Graham Potter

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ABBREVIATED Minutes of the AGM of Linton Parish Council held at the Cathodeon Centre on 1st May 2008

Present: Councillors Gore (Chair), Ms E Cornell (Vice Chair), Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, S Daly, M Gee, B Hammett, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr V Urwin and Mrs S Parry (Clerk to the Council). Mrs K France (Press) was in attendance.

Cllr Cox proposed that Cllr Gore be elected as Chairman of the Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Urwin and agreed unanimously by the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hickford and Rossiter.

Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Bald proposed that Cllr Cornell be elected as Vice Chair of the Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Linsdell and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

Appointments

The Council appointed its representatives on outside organisations and the members of the Planning and Finance Committees and its Advisory Committees. (Note: A list of representatives and members is available from the Clerk)

Declarations of Interests

Cllr Cornell expressed a prejudicial interest as a Governor of Linton Heights Junior School, and Cllr Daly a prejudicial interest as a neighbour in relation to the planning application relating to Newdigate House.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2008 were adopted. Cllr Cox reported that the re-erection of the Village Sign had been delayed due to the bad weather. Cllr Bald had sent a list of unoccupied premises to DC Bear. Cllr Gore reported that one application had been received for the vacancy for an administrative assistant.

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th April were noted.

Reports from Co-ordinators

Open Spaces – Cllr Bald stated there remained problems with verge parking on Symonds Lane.

Recreation Ground – Cllr Krarup reported that the entrance gate area had not yet been dug out.

Cemetery – Cllr Bald suggested that a chainsaw artist who sculpts trees might be of interest should the lime trees be felled; a grant might be available.

Leadwell Meadows – The Clerk reported that it had been too wet to be cut the grass.

Glebe Land – Cllr Cox offered to cut the grass. Cllr Potter offered to cut up the fallen willow tree.

Churchyard – Cllr Cox was awaiting a response from the Diocesan Advisory Committee regarding the repair of the walls and gatepost.

Communications – Cllr Gee had issued a report outlining the personal information required to be in the public domain to gain Quality Parish Status (“QPS”). It was agreed that the personal addresses of councillors would not be published on the website for the moment, but that the matter would be reconsidered as and when steps towards QPS were taken.

A1307 – Cllr Cornell reported that a meeting had taken place at Horseheath Village Hall to discuss the impact of the growth of Haverhill on the A1307. Sadly the following day another fatality had occurred.

Allotments – Cllr Linsdell had met Mr Balaam who had requested a meeting with the Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Linsdell.

Payments

The Clerk asked the Council to consider the payment of two invoices received after publication of the agenda, one from Sandcroft Payroll Services, and the other from Briar Security Systems Ltd for the installation of CCTV on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the payments listed on the agenda together with the two additional invoices, be paid.

Approval of Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement

The Statement of Accounts was agreed by the meeting and duly signed. The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the meeting and duly signed.

Future development regarding land rear of Newdigate House, planning application S/1881/07/F.

It was agreed that Cllr Gore should make minor changes to the previously agreed statement and circulate it to councillors prior to it being sent to the District Council.

Correspondence received and for discussion

Julie Bristow, regarding youth issues. Following discussion and concern that conflicting advice was being received from the police and the youth workers it was agreed to formulate a team response.

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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ABBREVIATED Minutes of the meeting of the Linton Parish Council held at the Cathodeon Centre on 15th May 2008.

Present: Councillors A Gore (Chair), Ms E Cornell (Vice Chair), S Daly, M Gee, B Hammett, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter, Dr V Urwin and Mrs S Parry (Clerk to the Council). County and District Councillor J Batchelor, District Councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (Press) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bald, Cox, Hickford and Krarup

Minutes

The draft minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting held on 1st May 2008. The minutes of the Planning meeting held on 1st May 2008 were noted.

Report from County Councillor John Batchelor

The County Council no longer funded works such as small scale road markings; if the Parish Council wanted markings at the junctions of Hillway and Symonds Lane or Chalklands and Paynes Meadow it was likely that it would have to meet the cost. He would also ascertain if the Council’s Minor Highways Improvements Bid had been successful.

There was to be a meeting to decide how the planning obligation monies due from the latest phase of the Granta

Park development should be applied. He would press for them to be applied to the carrying out of improvements at the Hildersham turn on the A1307.

A meeting had taken place regarding the proposed Hanley Grange new town. He was disappointed the Parish Council had not been invited. All local authorities in the area were opposed to the proposal. Leaflets would be sent out to residents within 8 miles of the site.

He confirmed that the County Council as education authority was responsible for the flint wall on Camping Close, which was in a dangerous condition. The authority was apparently awaiting a letter from the Infants School. It was agreed that the clerk contact the school.

In response to a question, he had been advised by the Principal of the Village College that the College had arranged for the PCSOs to patrol the village during Leavers Day and that the rubbish and broken glass on Camping Close had been placed there subsequently. She considered that parents were responsible for their childrens’ behaviour after school hours. Cllr Cornell said that many of those on Camping Close in the evening were not LVC students

Reports from the District Councillors

Councillor Bear reported on the changes in notifying parish councils of planning decisions.

She was pleased the application regarding development at the rear of Newdigate House had been refused, but the applicant was likely to lodge an appeal. She believed there was scope to use the appeal process to negotiate greater benefits for the Junior School.

She was not aware of any meeting with Flaxfields residents involving Sanctuary Hereward Housing Association. The clerk advised that she understood a District Council housing officer had been visiting Council tenants to provide them with information regarding the construction process. Cllr Batchelor stated that the work in Flaxfields was delayed until the electricity board had undertaken certain work.

Written reports from Council representatives

Cllr Gore had circulated a report regarding the meeting of parish councils to discuss the National Air Traffic Control Service proposals for changes in air traffic control at Stansted & Luton airports. It was agreed to defer discussion of the report to the next meeting.

Payments

It was agreed that the payments listed on the agenda be paid.

Correspondence received and for discussion

South Cambridgeshire District Council, Housing Futures consultation. It was agreed that Cllr Rossiter would formulate a draft response for discussion at the following meeting.

Administrative assistant

Six applications had been received. It was agreed that the Staff Sub Committee agree a short list of candidates, conduct interviews and submit a recommendation to the Council.

Reports from Councillors (for information only)

Cllr Cornell reported that English Heritage had forwarded the Council’s request for the Water Tower to be listed to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for final comment.

Cllr Rossiter reported that she had cut the grass on the Glebe Land and that work had started to remove the willow.

Note: copies of reports and documents referred to in these minutes can be inspected at the Council’s offices.

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