

A wonderful wacky day...

EARLIER this month, we saw the joining together of two traditional community events, the President's Day cricket match and the infamous Wacky Races ... and what a success it was.

A lovely day was enjoyed by more than 300 people congregating on the recreation ground to applaud a fine display of village cricket, interrupted briefly by the arrival of 14 teams of very damp racers.

The standard of fancy dress and home-made vehicles was exceptional with teams ranging from the historical Viking marauders, complete with miniature long boat, to the blockbuster Toy Story, with Woody and Buzz precariously balanced on a child's go-kart,

chased by the eco-friendly green Bean Machine propelled by two human runner beans.

First past the finishing line were local celebrities Gary Donaldson and James Paintin with their impressive run as Team Top Gear.

Dr Who with a life-size Tardis and Dalek won the best fancy dress, although coming from an alternative universe must have caused directional problems as at one point the Tardis was manually transported over a short cut much to the amusement of everyone watching.

The spoof of the Village People by the Benidorm Boozers was my personal favorite as they scarily looked better than

the original.

Local businessman Joel Palmer, co-organiser of the day, was delighted at the turnout, adding: "We raised about £2,000 for Cancer Research and Linton Recreation improvement fund".

The President's Day cricket also had a new format, reflecting the coming together of the juniors and seniors with a very tense six-a-side knockout event, culminating in an exciting final between the Bulls, led by Andy Osborn, versus the Lions, captained by Mark Liles.

The Bulls were victorious with 62 for no wicket. The day was judged a resounding success by Barry Bowen, LVCC



Crazy crew: the Benidorm Boozers on their way to the finishing line

Picture by Tracey Wilson

president and co-organiser.

He said: "It has been fantastic to see so many families enjoying such a community

event on our local ground and we hope to do something even bigger and better next year. Thank you to all those who at-

tended and gave so generously and to those who helped set up the day."

Judith Rouse

We are in need of another assistant editor

THE Linton News team are looking to recruit a new member into our midst. We are in need of another assistant editor to support our current editorial team, laying out pages and editing copy.

This position would suit a person with limited mobility, who enjoys talking to people and using their computer, either playing games, searching the internet, writing or just communicating or researching.

This is a busy yet rewarding role, and I'm sure there are plenty of people in Linton capable of taking on this position. We hold committee meetings at the library, and you will be made most welcome. We get quite busy one weekend a month, but with more hands on deck the workload would diminish.

This is a very exciting time in the newspaper's life as we are looking into taking the paper into colour soon.

You will be supplied with all the tools you need, including a computer and training, and there is lots of support. The team doesn't bite!

We look forward to meeting you soon. Why not try and give it a go?

LN Team 897965
or 893160
lneditor@linton.info

30 years on ... and Dad is pipped Its a family affair



Visitors check out a fine display of produce at this year's show

Picture by Ron Pitkin

IN 1978 Roy Chapman won the Endeavour Cup for vegetables and fruit at the gardening club's annual show and his was the first name engraved on the trophy.

More than 30 years later, at this year's show last month, he again had some winning entries ... but this time he was pipped to the Endeavour Cup by his daughter Sandra, who had a great year, winning three cups for her excellent vegetables.

It would be lovely to see more former winners from the show entering again and maybe even challenging their offspring too!

Once again the children put on a magnificent display

at the show and now we all know how to make spells just like Harry Potter and make enchanted gardens.

The judges again had a very tough time and the competition was fierce. Despite this, both Chelsea Reilly and Henrietta Newble succeeded in winning the cups for the 8-14 age group and the up to 7 age group respectively, for the second year running.

The Lunchtime Gardeners at Linton infant school won the Green Fingers Cup.

The trophies were presented by Judy Nightingale, former show secretary, chairman and president. She made a lovely speech and asked if anyone knew the date of the first gardening club show as they have not

been held every year.

Once again, Susan Anderson calmly led the organisation of the show, co-ordinating the efforts of many helpers. A big thank you to all who helped with organisation, setting up the hall, writing exhibit cards, baking cakes, stewarding and clearing up afterwards. The show couldn't happen without you!

The new season for the gardening club starts with the AGM in the village hall at 7.30pm on 12th October followed by Bill Johnson speaking about aquatics. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kirsten Newble 892425
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Sparkling Chilford

CHILFORD Hall vineyard in Linton is celebrating after its Chilford Hundred Sparkling Rosé 2004 was awarded the top accolade of Wine of the Year 2010, as well as the Spear Trophy for best sparkling wine and a Gold Medal at the East Anglian Wine Growers' Association 2010 awards.

The vineyard was awarded eight prizes in total in the prestigious regional competition, held in July in Wissett in Suffolk.

These included a commended certificate for the Müller-Thurgau Siegerrebe 2009, and four Bronze medals for the Schönburger Müller-Thurgau 2009, Ortega Reichensteiner 2009, Blush 2009 and the Schönburger single variety 2009.

The judging panel included: Anthony Foster MW, Robin Cramer MW, wine producers Roy Williams and Mary Mudd and James Long, managing director of Corney and Barrow (East Anglia) Ltd, all of whom blind tasted 65 wines submitted by vineyards across the East Anglian region before coming to a decision.

Chilford Hall's 20-acre vineyard is the only commercial vineyard in Cambridgeshire and has been in operation in Linton since 1972, with the first vintage having been produced in 1974. The estate is famous for sparkling and still rosé and white wines, and produced its first Granta Valley red wine in 2008 that sold out within six weeks.

Anthony Foster, Master of Wine and chairman of the EAWGA judging panel, says, "Chilford's Sparkling Rosé 2004 is a spectacular example of méthode traditionnelle (bottle-fermented) wine, and as a pink wine, has all the elements required to stand up on a world stage. It is as good a wine as I've ever tasted; it has fruit, autolysis, structure, elegance and style."

For information on group winery and vineyard tours and tastings, please contact Leah Mejias on 895603/895600.

For further information, please contact me.:

Laura Hazell, PR Director,
0845 226 7469

Email: laura@oxwichcommunications.com

Too good for jumble ...

TWO television sets on offer - a grey 14" Matsui with VHS recording and a 28" Panasonic with remote and instructions. Still available are the double twin Mothercare buggy, red and black with foot muffs; an Epson picturemate photolab and a Panasonic KX-FP205E fax machine, telephone and answer phone, with instructions; a child's snooker table and accessories (for up to 14), and the Logitech keyboard.

The laptop computer raised £25 for the Teenage Cancer Trust; the washable high chair raised £5 for Pakistan flood victims; the bike rack made £10 for the Red Cross and the wall map of Europe raised £5 for Action Aid.

To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please phone Elaine Collard on 892395. The donor chooses the charity to receive the money.

THOUGHTS FROM THE GRANTA RANTA

The opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those of the LN team. Despite popular opinion, the Ranta is NOT written by the same person each month. If you would like to rant in this paper please contact me at the address on page 3. Thank you.

This month we have two rants, both in response to last month's piece, one agreeing and the other opposing.

HOW interesting to read August's issue of the News. No sooner had I penned my own article than I read the News and found someone else expressing similar concerns. Rather than let the matter drop, I feel it's useful to hear another viewpoint - namely my own.

I like Linton, I've lived here for a number of years; it's friendly and agreeable, just the sort of village where you would hope to enjoy peace and quiet.

So you would think. But it is not; I like, along with many others, to take a well-earned lie-in on a weekend, especially the universal day of rest: Sunday. On other days I like sometimes to take an afternoon nap. I don't feel this to be an unreasonable expectation in my own home within a country village. After all, it is a general rule of our society that Sunday mornings are a time of rest and quiet; neighbours do not mow lawns, carry out DIY or any other noisy business.

Yet, whilst attempting to enjoy a morning's sleep, I am rudely disturbed by a discordant clanging from within the village. This noise - it cannot be described by any other term

- continues for up to forty-five minutes, rising and falling in volume, stopping and starting, so that all reverie has ceased and general feelings of goodwill trampled upon. I have no alternative but to get up and seek refuge in a part of the house that provides some shelter from the din, otherwise I begin the day in a temper and not as I had hoped.

If you had not already guessed from your own experience, I am of course speaking of the bell ringing.

I do not live close to the church, yet the sound travels far and wide over the village. It does seem to me that Sunday morning particularly is not an acceptable time to inflict this cacophony upon the ears of non-participating villagers. It is wholly selfish to do so. There are other more appropriate times of the day and week to participate in this activity, which may well be a social event for the participants but I find nothing sociable about it.

I cannot even refer to it as a musical activity, since over the years I have never detected a tuneful melody, which would alleviate some of the irritation. If they are practising then it is

time to call it a day as it is not getting any better, but continues as a tuneless jangling on the nerves and ears.

Some of you may consider my attitude to be intolerant, yet I would suggest that if I were to get in my car and drive around the village for forty five minutes tooting the horn of my car, complaints would abound and an asbo would probably be forthcoming. I do not enjoy the bell ringing and as a local I have a right to my feelings and objections to be considered. I suggest that (weddings aside) the bell ringing is limited to the afternoon or evening. We all have a right to peace and quiet and I have put up with this for a long time now and finally felt that I should speak out publicly - I have privately complained about it to no avail.

So, I would hope that those involved will consider my views and come to an inclusive decision. If others within the village feel as I do, I hope you will make your feelings known perhaps to council members, the church or via this newsletter. After reading the last News issue, it seems that I am not the only person who would like quiet.

On the other hand...

I WAS astounded at last month's 'Granta Ranta'. What a whining whinger! So I want to have a teeny rant in reply.

A few days of hot weather and you moan. You'll probably moan when it's freezing cold.

Then you moaned about the weekly noise polluting bell ringing. Come on! It's once a week for pity's sake. It is a

beautiful sound, especially on a warm summer's evening. Open your mind and your windows and enjoy.

You ranted about the cars driving through the village during the evening, yes the evening, not the early hours of the morning. So you never drive at night? This is the 21st century and cars are part of it. I get the feeling you would like the horse and cart back, but then you'd probably rant about the dung on the streets.

Fancy whingeing about laughter from the beer garden. How lovely to hear people enjoying themselves. Shame you didn't share their jokes. Hearing people laughing outside and in their gardens during the summer evenings makes me smile and lifts the spirits. Have you never laughed outside in the evenings? Doesn't sound like it!

That night you heard the sounds of running footfalls,

your immediate reaction was not, 'that's someone jogging to keep fit', but 'that's someone probably having committed an act of vandalism'. Why do certain people always think bad things? Try thinking good things for a change.

You carried on ranting and then you wanted to know if the parish council could look into these annoying noise issues! But perhaps you were joking! Why not self help? I recommend ear plugs. They work. Especially effective when sleeping with a snorer! Or try closing the windows. eg you'll get a bit sweaty, but that'll get rid of some of the toxin build-up. Take up meditation and have a nightly walk to relax - you may find the night jogger is a friend of yours!

To all you ranting people: there are some serious issues in this world to consider. Let's hear about those for a change.

PLODDING ALONG

An update on police matters

BETWEEN 18:20 and 18:35 on Saturday 7th August, unknown offenders forced entry into the Sinclair Collis unit on The Grip in Linton. The unit faces onto the B1052. The offenders managed to force their way through the unit's high-tec security equipment, and stole over £20,000 worth of cigarettes. CCTV shows two vehicles; a white Transit type panel van and a maroon 4-door saloon car. Four to six white males are believed to have been responsible.

At approximately 13:57

hours on Tuesday 10th August, two white males went to an address in the High Street in Balsham and pretended to be from the waterboard. The elderly occupant let them into his bungalow briefly, before growing suspicious and pulling his emergency cord. The males fled the home onto the High Street. One is described as being in his early 20s and the other in his 30s. One was described as being about 5 feet 11 inches tall, with black spiky hair, a squeaky voice and wear-

ing a grey sweater, and the other about five feet six inches, slim with receding hair and wearing a grey or tan-coloured jumper. We do not know if they had a vehicle.

If you witnessed any suspicious behaviour in either area on the times mentioned, or have any information relating to these crimes, I would be grateful if you could get in contact with Cambridgeshire Constabulary on 0345 456 456 4.

PC 1881 Rebecca Parkin
Linton neighbourhood
policing team

BELOW are the details of the next police surgeries, please call to meet your local officers and discuss any issues/problems in your area or just call for a general chat. Should you like a police surgery in a different village, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Wednesday 22nd September 2010 at Linton police office (adjoining the fire station) between 1pm and 3pm. Friday 15th October 2010 at Linton police office (adjoining the Fire Station) in Linton between 7pm and 8pm. Wednesday 24th November 2010 at Linton police office between 1pm and 3pm. Monday 13th December 2010 at Linton police office between 1pm and 3pm.

PCSO 7239 Leanne Fisher
Linton neighbourhood
policing team

New WEA courses for autumn

WE are all looking forward to welcoming back an old friend, Mary Dicken, this autumn at WEA.

This term we are going to once again look back in time, but with a twist as our subject title is 'Restoration, Revolution & Resurgence', in brief - A merry monarch, a deposed monarchy, a joint monarchy, a fat monarch and life under them...

This course will look at why Charles II was restored and why James II lost his throne, some great men like Pepys, Newton, and Wren, all of whom have Cambridge connections and some wicked women. The origins of the Irish problems and the horrors of Glencoe will feature along with London life at the time of the plague and the fire.

We start our ten week term at Linton village hall on Tuesday 5th October 2010 at 10am. Each session lasts until 11.45 am, with a break for a cup

of tea and a chance to catch up on local news half way through. We are a very friendly group and you will be more than welcome to come and join our truly happy Tuesday mornings.

We do hope that during this time of severe belt tightening our band of loyal and greatly valued members and, of course, any potential new members will join us again for the autumn course.

There are two schemes available to help people feeling the financial pinch that will enable them to still be able to attend our courses for free. These matters are always dealt with, in the strictest confidence. Full details can be found on the Linton WEA website or can be discussed by contacting the branch treasurer www.lintonwea.org.uk/contact.html. For all enquiries about the course please contact the branch secretary on 01223 290420

Andrew Westwood-Bate

The drop in is turned around

LINTON Action 4 Youth had an extremely successful cafe opening on 3rd August.

We were blessed with a fine sunny afternoon and the recreation ground was full of young people and families. The drop in was busy all afternoon with people wanting teas and coffees and using the facilities and to admire the newly decorated building, which was done by the young people.

Young volunteers from Linton were kept busy serving refreshments and homemade cakes. For the opening we also hired a climbing wall, which was free for anyone over 8yrs (and brave enough) and was a very popular attraction.

The cafe will be open from 10th August every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2 - 5pm. The drop in has struggled for many years with a bad reputation. However anyone who has ever visited the premises will know that this is no longer the case. The young people are extremely welcoming to visitors and if anyone would like to come down in the evenings and visit, they are most welcome. We are open Monday evenings from 7 - 9pm.

It is an extremely valuable resource for young people in the evenings and the staff work very hard to keep the building open and accessible for young people.

Steph Basham

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Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are below. All letters for publication must have a full name, address or phone number to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Linton News.

Dear Editor,
As shown under "Readers write", all letters must have a full name, address or phone number for checking authenticity. Letters sent to the parish council must bear similar identification.

For this reason an anonymous letter purporting to be from Flaxfields residents about Nichols Court could not be discussed at the last council meeting. As an unbiased observer, I know councillors take all residents' communications seriously. Why not write again and identify yourselves?
Kate France

Dear Editor,
Please could your readers help me with a gardening problem?
This year, for the first time, I am growing melons and am pleased to report the plants are a great success; the fruits are growing rapidly. However, I now realise that the melons will be heavy and my wiring/supports will not be strong enough to provide the requisite support. A neighbour – an educated lady – has suggested I try and obtain a number of unwanted bras in which to hold the fruits, but I fear the greenhouse could become a hothouse of voyeurism. What do your readers advise?
M R K Holden

OUR THANKS

Dear Editor,
A charity football match took place on Sunday 27th June between Linton Granta Veterans and Aztecs over 35s.
The match is an annual event in memory of Alfred Hughes, who was an active member of Aztecs Junior football club for over 10 years before his life was cut short due to Parkinson's disease.
Aztecs took the trophy with a 4-1 victory. £200 was raised for the Parkinson's Society and the Hughes family would like to thank all those who took part and spectated. Thanks to Linton Granta for the use of the pavilion and especially Tony Saunders for arranging the event, and also to Pete Belsom Jackie Hughes

Dear Editor,
Through your paper my family and I would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, flowers and messages of sympathy we received for our terrible sad loss of George, who died so suddenly at our home.
Special thanks for those who attended George's funeral and who donated to the village hall fund, also to Paintins for all their help.
Special mention for my friend Sue Fisher who we are so very grateful to, for she has helped so much. Also Lee Swan, Helen, Hilary, Michele, Louise and Claire for all their help.
Christine Smith and family

LINTON DIARY

For entry in this list, ensure that your event is written into the diary in the Post Office.

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

Call 891104 for an audio version of the Linton News

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

WEEKLY	
Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays	VH
Chestnut baby and toddler group, Mondays term time, 9.30-11.30am (starts 13 th Sept)	CC
Linton theatre workshop, Mondays (call Joe 01440 703701)	
WEA, 10am Tuesdays	VH
Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays	Church pavilion
Linton Granta Toddlers, 9.30 - 11.30am Tuesdays	LVC
Ladies' football, 7-8pm Tuesdays	LVC
Linton chess club, 7.30pm Tuesdays	CC
Granta duplicate bridge club, 2-4pm Tuesdays	VH
Junior choir, 6pm-6.45pm Tuesdays	St Mary's
IT club, 7pm Tuesdays	CC
Linton children's centre, call 07768 008919	CC
Bowls roll-ups, 2pm Wednesdays Apr-Oct	Bowls pavilion
Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays	VH
Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays	VH
The Karate Club, 5.15-6.15pm, Thursdays	VH
Parents, carers and tots Mocha house, 9.15-10am Fridays	Church pavilion
Buffy bus, 11am-12.15pm Fridays	Hadstock village green
Bridge club, 7pm Fridays	CC

For sports centre courses please call Mark Wilson 890248

theWI Goulsh happenings at the WI

THEATRICAL makeup artist, Chris Clarke demonstrate her wonderful skill last month. Several volunteers were quickly transformed and, by the end of the evening, we had a beautiful lion from the musical 'Lion King', an ugly sister from 'Cinderella', Katisha, an elderly lady from 'The Mikado', a ghoulish creature and some horrific injuries. One injury, of blood oozing from a deep gash caused by a shard of glass protruding from my

hand, was so authentic that gasps of horror were heard and several people had to turn away.
It really was a good theatrical evening with horror and lots of laughter and great applause at the end.
We discovered that one definition of a ham actor comes from the 19th century when heavy makeup was removed using ham fat.
Our next meeting is on Tuesday 7th September at 7.30pm and will be a talk by Linton's Peter

White on relieving yourself from pain using acupuncture.
On Thursday 30th September there is a morning visit to the Fitzwilliam museum to see the Promenade Sculpture exhibition and the exquisite lavishly illustrated Persian manuscripts illustrating the "Shahnameh" – a narrative poem telling the Iranian version of the history of the World. This will be followed by lunch at Browns.
Trysha Hunt 894533



Brenda Clark unleashes her inner tiger!
Picture by Trysha Hunt

Blue bins are coming

HOUSES in South Cambridgeshire will be receiving new blue bins between 31st August and 6th October. Collections will take effect from Monday 11th October.

On delivery, residents are asked to be aware that the blue bin lids may not close properly due to the way in which they were stacked for storage. The lid should settle after a week or so.
The blue bin will be delivered with an information pack. In the pack residents will find a bag for recycling domestic batteries. This will need to be put out for collection with the blue bin and will be replaced each time it is used.
If residents have not received their blue bin by Wednesday 6th October they should contact the council on 03450 450 063. Blue bin collections will replace the green box collections. They will, therefore, need to be put out on the same day as the green boxes would have been, the same day as the green bin.
S Cambs district council

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Linton's musical season begins

LINTON music society's first concert of the season brings back a small choir that caused a sensation when they first came two years ago. Voskreseniye is a Russian choir of outstanding quality, and will present a lush programme of both sacred songs and eastern folk music on Saturday 9th October, 7.30 pm in Linton parish church. Since Voskreseniye will be staying in Linton to join the church choir the next morning, the society is looking for hosts who can provide accommodation for one or two choir members on the Saturday night. Please get in touch with the secretary on 893600 if you can help, and we would be delighted to give you a couple of tickets for the concert as a thank you.
The season contains perhaps our most crowd-pleasing concerts to date: a band of eight cellists called Cellophony; Eclipse, who opened the Cambridge summer music festival this year and who will combine Spanish and English Christmas music in their concert; the young pianist Michael Ierace, a prizewinner in the 2009 Haverhill competition, Kosmos, the string group with such a difference that they fill every venue they play, and many more.
All of these spectacular concerts, we hope, should encourage you to join as members this year! Further information about all concerts and the Linton music society is available by visiting www.lintonmusic.org.uk.

Juliet Abrahamson

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THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 4th October 2010
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News from the tower

I HOPE our visitors enjoyed the open tower evening in May – we certainly enjoyed showing them around. We also had a visit from members of the camera club and we are looking forward to entertaining another group of guides in the tower in September.
We're in the thick of the holiday season now, which is why you may have heard only four bells on a couple of Sundays. Ringing on four should be simple, but it is actually very challenging, with many changes in speed.

Catherine Richardson rang her first quarter peal a couple of weeks ago, not much more than a year after she started ringing – well done Catherine! We are still struggling along in the striking competition but are enjoying the matches very much.
If you are interested in learning to ring, or just want to know what goes on in the tower, please call me or just come along at 7.30pm on any Wednesday evening.
Jackie Latham 890898

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The man with magic fingers

FROM rubbish tip to winning garden ... deservedly, Stan Page of Chalklands has won the district council's award for the best kept garden in South Cambridgeshire for the third time.

Before his three wins, Stan achieved three second places, but winners must wait a year before they can compete again.

However, he has not been idle as winners are co-opted as judges so he has travelled miles around the district giving his expert opinion.

A former stockman on farms in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, Stan has been a keen gardener for many years, the last 10 in Linton.

His garden in the newer part of Chalklands is larger than its neighbours and he told me that the extra piece, adjacent to the cemetery, was once part of the Linton rubbish tip.

He has dug up many old car parts but, despite the poor soil, the garden is very attractive with a gravelled space around a central rosebush, under-planted with asters.

His wife Sylvia enjoys the garden although she leaves the design and outside work to Stan, but Tim the dachshund is his constant companion.

During the summer, watering and deadheading take two hours every evening.

The competition is sponsored by Scotsdales where the presentation of Stan's certificate will take place on 1st October. Congratulations!

LNT



Gardener supreme:
Stan and Tim in the garden which he has won three times for best kept garden

Picture by Ron Pitkin

Health centre news

EILEEN Sim has retired after 26 years at the Health centre's reception desk. Retirement comes to us all but Eileen is certainly not going to be putting her feet up.

She chose a bicycle as her retirement gift from the partners and was also presented with gardening vouchers and flowers from the staff.



Dr Silverman and Eileen
with her new bike

Picture by William Sim

Flu clinics

IT'S that time of year again - we immunise around 2000 patients every year, and once again, we are very grateful to all our staff who are going to help on Saturdays to ensure that we can immunise as many patients as possible.

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

Our clinic dates are 2nd and 9th October and 6th November.
Sheila Griffiths
Practice Manager

Breakfast start for Chestnut

WE are delighted to announce that Chestnut playgroup will be starting a breakfast club at the Cathodeon centre from 27th September.

Linton breakfast club will initially be open to children attending Linton infant school and Linton Heights but it is

hoped that we will be able to extend the provision to Chestnut playgroup pre-school children at some point during the first year.

Parents or carers will be able to drop their children off from 7.50am each weekday during term time. The children will be offered breakfast and some activities before qualified, first-aid trained and CRB approved staff escort them to school.

There is a one-off registration fee of £10 per family and thereafter the charges are £3.75 per child and £3.00 for any additional children in the same family.

A discounted rate of £3 will also be applied to all breakfast club children who have a younger sibling attending Chestnut playgroup.

To assist with the running of the breakfast club, Chestnut Playgroup would be delighted

to speak to any local companies who may wish to sponsor the breakfasts for a week. We will acknowledge and advertise any sponsorship that we receive.

We are also keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in helping escort the children on their daily walk to school whether on a regular or occasional basis.

For more information about the breakfast club or to request an enrolment form, please email lbreakfastclub@btinternet.com.

To learn more about our regular playgroup sessions including new extended hours and our new parent and toddler group starting on Monday 13th September or anything else we're up to, please visit our website at www.chestnutplaygroup.btik.com.

Nikki Linsdell, Chestnut playgroup committee

ACEs enjoy sunshine and showers

WE held the annual garden party for the ACEs on 24th June. Despite it being midsummer, we had a gloriously sunny day, with a record turn-out. Indeed, so many guests came that we ran out of scones! I heard they were excellent, so many thanks to Martha Crouch for baking them, and to Linda, Janet, Cynthia and Trysha for serving the teas superbly.

There was just enough seating, although we did lose a few people to the riverbank. The raffle was a great success, the quiz was fun (thank you, Bel) and was won by June Bunn.

Alex and Carole Todd ran a stall for the Alzheimer's Society, our bring and buy was splendidly run by Peggy and Pauline. Thank you everyone!

The garden party for the local Conservatives, a few days previously, was not so lucky with the weather. However, the rain didn't dampen their generosity, and they made a fine donation to the work of ACEs. Our MP, Jim Paice, won their quiz on tree identification, reassuring that the new agriculture minister knows his subject.

At our fish and chips lunch

on 5th August, Janet Morris told us about Horseheath Hall, a vanished country house midway between here and Haverhill, with a fascinating history.

Built on the slave-powered profits of West Indies sugar, famed for its grand gardens and deer park, and for the owners' extravagance - a pair of their soup tureens sold recently for more than £1 million - it literally came and went in 150 years, down to the sale of the bricks (re-used to build local houses).

The most profligate of its owners, Henry Bromley, gave a lavish party at his club on New Year's Eve in 1754, went home and shot himself, which seems to sum up the whole story.

The next event will be a coach trip on 21st September to Sandringham, the royal residence and gardens. The coach will be sponsored through a grassroots grant from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, so we just have to pay around £8 for entry. The coach leaves the Dog and Duck at 9:30, picking up at Chalklands corner and the fire station. To book, call Enid or Anne/Sue on 891001.

Enid Bald 891069



It all helps ... the ACEs committee with their cheque

Picture: John Bald

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Linton News team say "thanks"

ABARBEQUE was held on the 24th of July at the home of Brian and Margaret Cox in order to say a big thank you to all those involved in the delivery of the Linton News.

The event was well attended, with over 70 helpers and their partners joining us. The gazebo supplied by the Cox's was fortunately not needed as the weather was very kind, and everyone enjoyed the party and the beautiful surroundings.

A big thank you again to Mr and Mrs Cox and here's to another news filled year.

The LN team



Owen and Graham busy at the barbecue

Picture by Ron Pitkin

Budding choristers needed for St Mary's junior choir

ST Mary's junior choir was formed in September 2009 and currently has nine members. We are looking for more budding choristers to join us. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 6pm for 45 minutes during school terms.

Last year the choir made significant contributions to the Service of lessons and carols on the Sunday before Christmas, a choral evensong, and the St Mark Passion by Charles Wood before Easter. They particularly enjoyed the great atmosphere at the Choirs' festival in Ely Cathedral in May and are seen in the picture rehearsing for a performance of 'Swingin' Samson'

by Michael Hurd at the Flower Festival.

Those who have been with us throughout the year will be receiving their RSCM Voice For Life white level awards at a special service at 9.45am on Sunday 3rd October. We shall also be dedicating the junior choir robes at the same service, when the choir will be singing *Swingin' Samson* as part of the act of worship. The first rehearsal of the autumn term is at 6pm on 7th September. Come along if you want to give it a try, or email me, david@parry-smith.co.uk, for further information.

David Parry-Smith 894715



The choir rehearsing for the Flower Festival

Picture by Janet Conochie

New whispering shade

ON Wednesday 21st July a small ceremony was held in Linton village college to acknowledge the replanting of trees which were removed for the realignment of the drive.

Those sponsors who could attend enjoyed a short resume of the college as it was in its early days given by Peter Swannell, son of Edwin Swannell, who was Warden from 1937 until he retired in 1964.

After refreshments, we went outside to look at the new planting and find our own tree. The trees were suffering from dry conditions but the next day a heavy downpour helped to reverse the signs of stress.

Many of you will remember the tall Lombardy Poplars which used to stand like sentinels along the old North drive. These were cut down as they had become diseased and the college playing fields looked very bare, and

a landmark was lost. I missed the trees very much and wrote several articles for the college magazine about the lack of shade for students.

Following a suggestion by a parent, sponsors were sought to replace them and in a short time 50 Silver Limes were planted and were dedicated in 2001. Unfortunately these had to be removed for building work to proceed and then could not be returned due to health and safety.

I battled to get trees replanted for the sponsors and a new planting was eventually agreed. We now have three areas of trees which will eventually provide natural shade for the students.

The sponsors hope that the residents of Linton will become as fond of the new trees as they were of the Poplars and that they too will become a landmark to all those passing by on the A1307.

Barbara Collar

Amy's winning ways

FIFTEEN year old Amy Rouse, daughter of Hildersham shepherd Andrew Rouse, has achieved two personal bests this summer. With her English Border Collie Mist, Amy came 2nd next to the top lady handler Val Powell, at a prestigious sheep dog trial in July. Before that Amy was filmed taking part in sheepdog trials in the Mendip Hills for *One man and his dog* to be shown on the BBC at Christmas. Although she is not allowed to give the results, her parents are very pleased and proud of her.

Amy remembers she always loved to go with her dad to see him working his dogs with the sheep. At age 11 she was allowed to choose a bitch of her own from Andrew's dog Floss's first litter. She says she knew straight away that the 6th arrival was the one for her. "She was very tiny", said Amy holding her hands about seven inches apart. "She was just right. I named her Mist after dad's first dog".

As soon as their eyes were open Amy had the job of teaching the pups to sit. Training the pups became a regular routine. Although



15 year old Kate Rouse with her dog Mist

Picture by Roger Lapwood

she was the smallest, Mist was quick to obey. Serious training began when Mist was nine weeks old. Amy taught her the same hand and whistle signals as her father's two dogs.

Amy won her first competition aged 10 with one of her father's dogs and came top in six trials with Mist when she was just 13.

Competing at weekends, Amy has to keep abreast of her school work and is often seen at trials doing homework on her laptop.

Amy wants to be a veterinary nurse. She has been doing work experience with Swayne & Partners in Haverhill and will be there again during the summer holidays.

Kate France

POT POURRI (68)

Where did the paths cross?

THERE are 2 paths which cross and are 130m & 106m in length of a rectangular shaped park, reaching opposite (long) sides of the park. The park is 50m wide (the length of the park is irrelevant for calculation purposes); the paths begin from opposite corners of the same 50m side. At what distance from this side do the paths cross? (Distance required to 2 d.p. & is at right angles to this side).

Solution to No 67 - An Ancient Expression?

THE square root of 2 to 4 d.p. is 1.4142.

Thus the ancient manuscript would show this number as: 1+1/3+1/333+1/1063. Confirmation is achieved by converting the fraction sum back to a decimal

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF...

World's biggest coffee morning

A MACMILLAN cancer support coffee morning will be held from 9.30am to 11.30am on Friday 24th September in the Linton village hall as part of the *World's Biggest Coffee Morning*. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served and we will also be holding a raffle. Cakes and raffle prizes will be gratefully accepted on the morning. Come along and bring a smile for Macmillan cancer support. Every cup of coffee makes a real difference to the lives of people affected by cancer.

Kerri Harmer 894392

Natural Woman Workshops

NATURAL woman menopause workshops, based in West Wickham, start this month.

Addressing the menopausal concerns of all women these informative workshops provide simple techniques and practical ideas on natural emotional and physical symptom management.

Anna Ludlow, who has been in the natural health business for over 20 years, runs these informal mornings. She says "most women have no idea what's in store for them or how to handle the menopause without the help of HRT and there are increasing numbers who don't wish to, or cannot, take HRT".

For information and dates call 07776300408 or visit www.naturalwoman.org.uk.

Anna Ludlow

Lost & Found

A PURSE and an umbrella were found after the performance of *The Tempest* at Hildersham Church Wood on Saturday 31st July. If these belong to you please contact Phil Wise on 892088.

SMALL bag of foreign coins were found at the Bartlow Road junction. Please e-mail lneditor@linton.info or phone 897965 to arrange collection. If not claimed they will be handed in to the fire station charity.

L.I.F.E.

THERE will be a return visit of the Raptor Foundation with some of their owls from 10am-1pm on Saturday 25th September at the Cathodeon centre.

This is a joint event with L.I.F.E (Linton initiative for the elderly) with the aim of befriending and encouraging isolated and the more housebound older people, and enabling them to access other services and facilities.

Refreshments, homemade cakes and handicrafts will be on sale. Proceeds will be shared between L.I.F.E and the Raptor Foundation. All welcome.

Geoff & Miriam Reynolds 892645

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In your own time

Meet a member of the Granta Grapevine



Mike Crofts at home

Picture by Janet Crofts

I ASKED Mike Crofts what he did in his own time and found he is very involved in village activities. This is what he told me: "Most of my free time is taken up with Granta Grapevine, the talking newspaper which distributes free recordings of the Linton News every month on audio cassette. I have been involved with the group since

1997, when Clare Neville, the previous chair, mailed the whole village, looking for volunteers.

We are currently going through challenging times like other organisations, sourcing funding, suitable volunteers and publicity. We are also affected by changes in technology. For example we use digital

recorders in place of cassette recorders for interviews, and we began a trial in August with volunteer listeners, of USB memory stick players instead of tape.

My involvement with visually impaired people began in 1991, when a work colleague said RNIB were looking for local talking book service volunteers to repair the old tape players. I am still involved with this, although special CD players are being used now, which are more reliable, so my workload has reduced considerably. Working with blind and partially sighted people has been of great benefit to me, and it has been a privilege to meet many lovely people during my time with the various groups.

On Tuesday evenings, together with Graham Potter, I help run the IT club, which has been in operation for over ten years now. This is a collaborative venture with the county library service who allow us to use their facilities each week. I took over from Derek Birch, who founded the group, to assist older members of the

community with computers and the internet.

I am a member of the village camera club who incidentally have their annual show on 16th October this year. Also the music society, who provide a stunning selection of concerts during the year right on our doorstep.

At home, I operate a number of websites for local groups including two branches of Parkinson's UK.

I enjoy growing plants in and around the greenhouse, and further afield I enjoy walking footpaths, whether locally, near the coast or abroad. My favourite in this area being the Devils Dyke between Reach and Ditton Green."

LNT



Chef's corner

Apple and Toffee Muffins

Ingredients -

- 2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten
- 80g/2¾oz caster sugar
- 240ml/8½fl oz milk
- 100g/3½oz melted butter
- 300g/10½oz plain flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- pinch cinnamon
- 2 eating apples, peeled, cored, finely chopped
- 200g/7oz shop-bought toffee, broken into small pieces

Preparation method -

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C/380°F/Gas 5 and line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper cases.
2. Mix the eggs, sugar, milk and melted butter in a large bowl. Sift the flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon into the bowl. Stir well to combine.
3. Add the chopped apple and lightly mix.
4. Using half of the mixture, quarter-fill each of the muffin cases with the mixture and top with a few pieces of toffee. Cover with the remaining filling so the cases are half full.
5. Bake for 30-35 minutes until well risen and golden. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Serve warm or cold.

Jan Lupton

What a family of pleasant pheasants

I WAS torn this month between the pheasant and the bullfinch as we have a family of each in the garden, the pheasant won as we have been following the progress of a family which adopted our garden several weeks ago.

The Pheasant, *Phasianus colchicus*

Head and neck glossy; with metallic reflections of green, blue, and purple; sides of the head bare, scarlet, minutely speckled with black; general plumage spotted and banded with orange-red, purple, brown, yellow, green, and black, either positive or reflected; tail very long, of eighteen feathers, the middle ones longest. Female—light brown, marked with dusky brown; sides of the head feathered; tail much shorter. Length three feet. Eggs olive-brown.

This climate suits the Pheasant pretty well, and at most seasons of the year it finds abundance of food; but in hard winters the supply diminishes, or fails altogether; and were not food specially scattered about for it in its haunts, it would either die off from being unable to withstand cold and hunger together, or become so weak that it would fall a prey to the smaller rapacious animals, who are not a match for it when it is strong and active. A healthy cock Pheasant has been known to beat off a cat; a sickly one would be unable to compete with a Magpie or Jay. It is, in fact, an exotic running wild, and enabled to do so only by the care of those who help it to surmount the inconveniences of a life spent in a foreign island.

The places best adapted for Pheasants are thick woods in the neighbourhood of water, where there is an abundance of shelter on the ground, in the shape of furze-bushes, brambles, tall weeds, rushes, or tussock grass; for they pass their lives almost exclusively on the ground, even roosting there, except in winter, when they fly up in the evening and perch on the lower boughs of middling-sized trees.

In April or May, the female bird scratches for herself a shallow hole in the ground under the shelter of some bushes or long grass, and lays from ten to fourteen eggs; but not infrequently she allows might to prevail over right, and appropriates both the nest and eggs belonging to some evicted Partridge. The situation of the nests is generally known to the keepers, and all that are considered safe are left to be attended to by the owner. Such, however, as are exposed to the depredations of vermin or poachers are more frequently taken, and the eggs are placed under a domestic hen.

Pheasant chicks are able to run about and pick up their own food soon after they have escaped from the egg.

Common Pheasants are occasionally found having a large portion or even the whole, of their plumage white. These, though highly ornamental when mixed with the common sort, are not prized, owing to their being a more conspicuous mark for poachers. The Ringed Pheasant occasionally shot in English preserves, is not, as some maintain, a distinct species; it differs from the typical form of the bird only in that the neck is partially surrounded by a narrow white collar passing from the back of the neck to the sides. But not meeting in front.

(There is a great deal more about the Pheasant in the book, if anyone is interested please contact me via the LN)

Wendy's feathery visitor

Wendy Foster

Picture by Wendy Foster

Teaching good values at Linton Heights



"I AM helping mum and dad with the cleaning!"

This is what one of our Year 5 pupils told us recently when we asked about the one thing they have done differently as a result of our work on values at Linton Heights. We knew that our focus on values would have a positive impact at school but it seems that it is spreading further afield, which is absolutely wonderful.

Other pupils told us: "I have learnt to let go of grudges and trust people again" and "I have respected skin colour, property and people more". For our pupils to be able to identify such

significant benefits is hugely rewarding and has given us much to celebrate as we now extend our work on values to include caring, honesty, and responsibility this term. It is so touching to know that one pupil is trying to "make sure that I have tried to do the things they say in assembly".

When we asked 70 of our current pupils about their views on values education, the large majority of pupils* told us that they had enjoyed working on values at school, and that they believed that values had made a positive difference to the way that they behaved and treated other people. A very large majority of the pupils* told us that they understood more about values than they did before, that they felt that all adults in the school were involved in our values work and that the assemblies on values were helpful in explaining what our values are.

The value that they have reported learning the most about is 'respect' and, although they told us that 'trust' was the hardest value to show, their collective feedback indicates that a great many pupils have put a lot of effort into this.

We also asked pupils whether they had any suggestions for this year and, as ever, they provided some very insightful observations, which will be adopted wholeheartedly. Ideas include: work on more values, allow more time in class to look at them and include them in lessons.

With this super feedback, we are very excited about the further possibilities that values education will provide at Linton Heights and hope that these benefits will continue to be seen both at school and at home.

* OfSTED definitions
Jennifer Malone
Headteacher

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THE Festival of Ideas returns for a third year with over 170 mostly free events for all ages! The festival, which celebrates the arts, humanities and social sciences, will take place from Wednesday 20th October – Sunday 31st October 2010. Open Cambridge (10th – 12th September 2010) is a weekend of free tours, talks and open access in which families, local residents and community groups are encouraged to explore the spectacular architecture, fantastic art collections and beautiful gardens that lie behind the university and college walls.

At the Festival of Ideas you will get to explore polar exploration, UFOs, palaeontology, language, politics, music and much more. Join us on Saturday 23rd October for a whole day of insightful discussions, informative talks and hands on activities for all ages. Jacqueline Wilson will talk about her life and works, graduate students will discuss



their research and children can experience life in prehistory.

Enjoy our series of evening Spotlight Talks on thought provoking and often contentious topics, including: 'The future of finance', 'Is the West losing its power?' and 'The future of the book'.

The talks and events will be held in university lecture halls, museums, art galleries and other venues around the town. For more information and a programme, please call: 01223 766766 or visit: www.cambridgefestivalofideas.org.

Coinciding with Heritage Open Days, Open Cambridge offers local people the chance to discover the history on their doorsteps and learn more about the city in which they live. We have more tours on offer this year than ever before, led by the experts who live and work on the sites being presented, including: view the Civic Insignia and historic Cambridge Charters and an exclusive opportunity to learn from the Sergeant-at-Mace, Chris Cracknell, about the council's



extensive collection of insignia and historic charters, and to view the collection.

For those who want to cover as much ground as possible during the weekend, The Bridge the Gap charity walk on Sunday 12th September is the perfect way to view a number of the City's historic colleges and green spaces, while raising money for the Arthur Rank Hospice and Press Relief, two charities directly benefiting our local community. Pre-booking is essential for this event and, for a very reasonable entry fee, walkers of all ages can enjoy touring the famous Backs and many of Cambridge's most attractive buildings.

For more information about Open Cambridge please call: 01223 766766, visit our website: www.cam.ac.uk/open-cambridge or email: open-cam@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Anna Kirk

Enjoy a stroll in the park

THE Cambridge branch of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People is organising a sponsored stroll in Milton country park on Sunday 10th October from 10am until approximately 3pm. We would like to encourage people from Cambridge and the surrounding villages to come along with their dogs and families to enjoy a walk whilst raising much-needed funds for this very worthwhile cause. We will present medals to those who complete the course and there will be a treat for dogs at the finish point. There is an excellent cafe where you can enjoy some refreshments or alternatively purchase picnic goodies to enjoy en route. The routes will meander along paths beside the lakes where, at the time of writing, there are swans, cygnets, ducks and ducklings to be seen. Despite the proximity to the A14 there is a very tranquil atmosphere and the site is very child and dog friendly. The routes of two miles and approximately five miles will be well marked and maps will be available. The majority of the route is very wheelchair and pushchair friendly and is generally flat. There is a small cost, but we hope that many walkers will obtain sponsorship to increase the amount raised for the charity. We would very much like this to be an annual event, so please do come and support us.

Jennifer Parker 833562 evenings only please jennifer.parker5@btopenworld.com

Fourth year for musical tots

MUSIC Matters, a music group for under fives, is about to start its fourth year in Linton, and is continuing to thrive within the local community. It provides focused music sessions to children aged 12 months and upwards, and is proud to have seen children from more than 50 families pass through its sessions since starting up in September 2007, at Linton village hall.

Children joining us in September will be especially excited to know that Music Matters was awarded a grant from the Anderson Trust, earlier this year. This money is gratefully being put towards a variety of percussion instruments from different cultures, and will ensure the children's early musical experiences continue to be as varied and exciting as possible.

Sessions run on Thursdays from 10.30 for the younger session (12 months upwards) and 1.50 for the older session (2 and a half years and upwards) - but if you've not experienced Music Matters yet, it really does more than just a toddler group. The musical aspects of each session are tailored to the age of the children, with opportunities to explore musical instruments, sing and act out songs and rhymes, and play response games to a range of musical genres. And if that's not enough, the needs of parents and carers are not missed either. Fantastic homemade cakes and coffee/tea are the highlight of the week for many of our families, and the friendly welcome in the small classes will ensure you have fun as well as your children! To find out more, or book a place, contact me on 01223 893140 or email music.matters@virgin.net. We hope to see you soon.

Emma Mason

Children get messy in Linton

THE summer has seen an exciting programme taking place in Linton and the surrounding areas, which more than 100 children have enjoyed at some time during the holidays. Messy Play on Wednesday morning at Linton village hall was hugely successful, with all ages from 0-5 having fun and definitely making the most of getting messy without the worry of having to tidy up afterwards. It was lovely getting to meet families for the first time and seeing the children discovering and play-

ing with such enthusiasm.

We have developed a new September programme that has a range of new sessions taking place. All our groups are free and we welcome all people whose children are of the right age for the group. We are starting fun at one, young parents group, group for child minders and an additional needs group, whilst we are still continuing with our infant massage and Chatter-tots. If you would like to find out any more about the groups we are putting on, or

have any questions that you are struggling to find answers for with regard to your 0-5 year old, then please do call our office on 01223 893594 where we will always do our best to help you.

In the next edition of the Linton News we hope to have some exciting news on the actual building of the new children's centre adjacent to the Cathodeon centre.

We hope to see you soon.
Debby Jepps

Photographic treasure hunt

JUST for a change, camera club members enjoyed a photo hunt around Linton in August instead of the normal indoor club night activities. Our Chairman, Sarah Hurcum, split us into two teams to try to photograph as many of the 47 items she had listed (many with cryptic clues) in two hours. We met up outside the Dog and Duck and, naturally, finished inside! Our efforts will be shown and counted at the next club night on Monday 6th September.

Our Sunday awayday happily coincided with the Linton Wacky Races, so we positioned members in strategic places around the

village to capture the action. I counted 14 starting teams, each with crazier costumes than the last. I think they all managed to finish, despite a soak both in the river and by a fire hose; I positioned myself to pick up the fun at the water's edge and I was rewarded by some fabulous action pictures plus a soaking by the fireman.

The best photographs from the Wacky Races will be displayed at the camera club exhibition which will be held, as usual, in the village hall on Saturday 16th October from 10am to 4pm. Once again, entry will be free with the chance to win your favourite photograph in an A4 frame. There will be refreshments and a raffle in aid of Alzheimer's Research, plus a table sale featuring greetings cards made by club members. Please see posters for details.

The next awayday will be on Sunday 12th September; this

will be a 45 minute return trip on the boat "Rosie" from the Plough pub in Fen Ditton to Jesus Green Lock - meet at Coles Lane car park at 10am.

Please see our website at www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk for details of away days and to see our gallery on the Flickr website.

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Jonah the whale weather vane

Picture by Jan Shambrook

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TERM starts shortly once more, so let me introduce you to some new members of our staff at the village college.

The person that you are most likely to meet, if you are a user of the college, is our new community business manager, Steve Austin. His role is an extremely important one because he will take responsibility for all the lettings and activities that we do. This includes adult education classes at Linton, the community sports centre and its activities, lettings of the college hall and other rooms and holiday courses.

Having a community business manager is a great bonus for me because all of these business dimensions have been managed and marketed as separate entities before and putting them under one arm of management is a way to streamline what we do and improve the quality of the spaces and activities that we offer to our community. It will also be much easier for our community users to have a single point of contact.

The collaboration that has existed between Linton and Sawston over the BE Partnership had many strengths during times of reduced funding, but we were always acutely aware that Linton area residents missed a point of contact within our own school and a friendly face to welcome them to the college when they came to their classes. We are anxious to put this right once more. We extend a warm welcome to Steve and look forward to the work he will do.

We are also welcoming two new faces to the senior leadership team at the college. Tim Darby, our head of maths and science faculty has been promoted to the role of assistant principal from September. Additionally we are joined by Angela Cassidy who has been head of expressive arts at Birchwood high school in Bishop's Stortford. She will also take on the role of assistant principal. This takes the team back up to full strength and allows us the capacity to work in partnership with other schools who face difficulties. In recent weeks the college has been awarded the title of 'Consultant School' and we have very much enjoyed the coaching aspect that this consultancy work has involved.

You may be wondering whether the college will be affected by the cut in government spending on building schools. As yet our project is not compromised: phase two building begins very shortly and we fully expect to open new reception doors in October 2011.

Caroline Derbyshire
Principal



The Way We Were by Garth Collard

Summerfield House



Summerfield House as it is now

Picture by Roger Lapwood

SUMMERFIELD is a large house behind a high wall on the corner of the High Street and Mill Lane. It is situated next to Millicent House and, at one time, the property also included all the left hand side of Mill Lane. Summerfield House is partly 16th century in date with some 19th century additions.

It is shown on 1600 maps of Linton when Richard Tofts, a farmer, was the owner. The Tofts family intermarried with various rich Linton families and eventually owned some of the most valuable properties in Linton.

In the 17th century the Tofts family became carriers, making regular journeys to Cambridge, Haverhill, Saffron Walden and London. Tragedies afflicted the rich as well as the poor in those days and a Thomas Tofts and his wife lost one child at only six months and later lost twin girls at nine days and 12 days respectively.

An interesting Linton criminal case was reported at the Cambridge Quarter Sessions in January 1787. Three Linton labourers stole a tiny quantity of grain from the land of Robert Chalk, who was the tenant of Summerfield. In addition to a prison sentence they were publicly whipped three times, twice in Cambridge and once in Linton market place. I assume that a large crowd turned out and still would!

In those days no one be-

lieved in rehabilitation and criminals rarely re-offended. Annual statistics were issued by the Quarter Sessions and gave the number of times convicted men had been to prison.

The Chalk family built up an enormous carrying trade and there are copies of the bills and goods they carried to and from London for the Balaam manorial lords.

William Chalk purchased the site from the Tofts and also became the tenant farmer at Chilford Hall.

At the end of the 19th century the house was purchased by Richard Holtum junior, who had returned from Birmingham to Linton to help in the family business after his mother committed suicide. He had worked as an apprentice in various Quaker families, including the Cadburys. In Birmingham he took an active role in politics as a Liberal in the 1880s and was a close friend of the Chamberlain family. He became a

county JP, a manager of Linton school and the rural district and county council member for Linton in the late 1890s. At that time the Mill Lane house was called The Vinery and was renamed as Summerfield when he married for the second time in 1878. His wife Fanny had resided in a Summerfield Road in Birmingham.

In 1898 the family moved from Summerfield to 33 High Street, on the corner of Market Lane, when Richard inherited the main family grocery and drapery business.

In 1921 Richard retired and moved to Saffron Walden and the house was bought for £875 by the new village doctor, Dr Wilson. The surgery was in the house until the mid 1920s when he built a new house in the Bartlow Road called Rhugarve House.

In recent times Dr Muncey lived at Summerfield.

Garth Collard

Secretary needed...

THE Cathodeon centre is owned by the parish council and let out to a variety of local groups as well as the library service. The Cathodeon centre trustees are looking to appoint a new secretary. Sue Parry, who has undertaken the work in addition to her full-time post as clerk to the parish council, has decided to concentrate on her day job from October. The trustees are very grateful to Sue for all the work she has done for the trust and we now need to appoint her replacement.

The main roles of the secretary are promoting the centre to the local community, liaising with regular users of the Cathodeon centre and the library, taking bookings of the community meeting rooms, sending invoices and paying bills, dealing with people maintaining the service installations, liaising with the clerk to the parish council in relation to the grounds, attending six short evening meetings a year and taking the minutes.

The secretary needs to have e-mail and it would help if they were usually in the village at least part of the day. Sue will help with the handover process and give her successor the support they need.

With the childrens' centre about to be built next to the existing building, this is an exciting phase in the life of the Cathodeon centre. We're looking for someone who would like to play a vital role in its development, and the reward? A modest honorary payment and the satisfaction of making an important contribution to the life of the village.

To find out more or for an application form phone Tony Krarup (891815) or Val Urwin (892498).

Andrew Gore, chair of Cathodeon trustees

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- S/0932/10/A Linton parish council, Land to the south east of 33 High Street, Linton. Notice/information board.
- S/1063/10/A Linton parish council, Car park, Coles Lane, Linton. Notice/information board.
- S/1063/10/A Linton parish council, Land to the east of St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Linton. Notice/information board.
- S/1171/10 57, Back Road, Linton, CB21 4JF. Side extension and rear conservatory following demolition of existing garage.

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Parish Council Matters

Wind farm inquiry

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

Presenting highway evidence at the inquiry

THE Linton wind farm inquiry is to recommence, following an adjournment, at 11am on Monday 6th September at the South Cambridgeshire district council office in Cambourne. I have been involved with this issue from the very beginning and was present when the inspector was deciding how much time would be needed. It has become a very long inquiry. Originally the inspector thought three weeks would be sufficient, but as events have evolved we will now be resuming in the sixth week, and there is provision for a seventh week if necessary.

In the second week at Cambourne, when myself and other parish councillors spoke, and the third week in our own village hall here in Linton, when our residents spoke, there was

a common theme. There was a very great concern that the issue of highways, ie the A1307, had been neglected. In the survey conducted by the parish council with respect to the wind farm application, 76% of responses stated they had concerns about the application and were against it. Many of these stated the A1307 as a cause for concern.

The highways division of Cambridgeshire county council did not object to the application although they did admit to making mistakes when originally submitting evidence to the Linton wind farm inquiry. I have been in communication with the county council since last September when it came to light that the highways division, who is responsible for safety

on the A1307, had not objected to the development of a wind farm at Linton. The A1307, also known as the "Road of Death", is notorious for the number of accidents and deaths in recent years in and around Linton, Hildersham, Abington and Horseheath.

The parish council asked the inspectorate for time so that we could get our own highway report commissioned. The inspectorate recognised the need for this, and has allowed the parish council to present evidence when the inquiry resumes. He has also allowed us Rule 6 status which means we can present the evidence and have a barrister, who can help our highways expert and cross-examine if necessary.

Cllr Roger Hickford

Our consultant's findings

DRIVER distraction on the A14 was a reason for refusal at the Boxworth wind farm inquiry in 2006, and this particular stretch of road on the A1307 has a much worse history for accidents and deaths than the A14 at Boxworth. It seems the problem has arisen due to the county council not doing a proper job in the first place, and that Cambridgeshire county council highways division is the only organisation that does not know the reputation of the A1307. They left it to a less senior officer to carry out a desktop study to see the effects on driver distraction of the giant wind turbines, instead of actually visiting the site.

Linton parish council has employed the services of Aecom, a highways consultancy firm, to help it present the

case to the inspectorate when the inquiry resumes. Aecom were amazed that the county council highways division were heavily reliant on guidance notes from just one source. They were more amazed when they realised it was Aecom's own guidance literature that they produced for the highways agency after the A14 Boxworth inquiry, where they appeared on behalf of the highways agency and submitted evidence to that inquiry. Aecom have stated to Linton parish council that these guidance notes should not have been used for the A1307 and Aecom have now submitted their own evidence on the Linton wind farm development, on behalf of Linton parish council, where they clearly state just that. Aecom have also reported in their findings

that there are many "cluster" accident sites very near to the proposed development, such as at the Hildersham junction, and that "... the Linton wind farm turbines could potentially exacerbate some existing A1307 road safety issues."

They go on to say "Given the aforementioned A1307 accident records/rates and the 2007 designation of the A1307 as a 'High Casualty Route' it is surprising that Cambridgeshire county council highways staff have not requested that Enertrag UK provide a safety audit of the Camgrain's/wind farm access to assess whether additional wind farm construction-related accessing/egressing traffic might exacerbate highway safety issues at this junction."

Cllr Roger Hickford

Coles Lane car park and the future of the recycling bins

IN January 2006 the parish council was first approached by South Cambridgeshire district council offering it the lease of Coles Lane car park. The district council was eager to dispose of public car park sites on the open market and the parish council was happy to consider taking on a long-term lease in order to preserve it as a free car park for the benefit of the village.

In June this year the parish council signed the lease to the Coles Lane car park and during August, as part of the lease negotiations, the district council paid to have the ivy cleared from the walls. This work has meant that the beautiful red brick walls that surround the car park can now be seen and it has had the added benefit that many of the car parking spaces close to the walls are more accessible.

Throughout the discussions with the Health Centre and at parish council meetings there was particular concern regarding the capacity of the car park and the spaces lost by the recycling bins. Due to the doorstep recycling currently offered by the district council and the planned introduction of the blue bins in October, the parish council is now entering into consultation with residents and the Health Centre as to whether the car park bins should be removed. Bottles, cans and paper will be covered by the blue bins and clothing recycling now takes place on the Fire Station site.

The removal of the bins would free up another six parking spaces which would help at peak times. It would also reduce the likelihood of fly-tipping and damage to the road surface by heavy collection vehicles. Ideally the bins would be moved to another site but presently one cannot be identified and therefore it is necessary to consider the removal of the facility from the village.

Parish council



Recycling bins: should they stay or should they go?

Picture by Sue Parry

Voluntary working group

SOME years ago there was a voluntary working group led by the parish council. At a recent parish council meeting I suggested we set up such a voluntary working group again, whereby volunteers from the village can help with such things as minor repairs, maintenance and construction. It would be to help in the village as a whole wherever required. As long as we meet certain conditions then our insurers will cover us as far as public liability is concerned. This will not be a regular event, such as weekly or monthly, but as and when necessary. I want to gather a list of people willing to help out on the odd occasion with a project. I am very thankful to the individuals who have already signed up, but I want as big a list as possible. If you feel you may be able to help, please contact the clerk on 891001.

Cllr Roger Hickford

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Council minutes council minutes council minutes council minutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 15th July 2010.

Present: Ms E Cornell (chair), Mrs E Bald (vice chair), D Champion, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, R Hickford, Ms T Hunt, T Krarup, J Linsdell, Ms M Mannassi, G Potter, Mrs J Wilson and Mrs S Parry (clerk). County and district councillor J Batchelor, district councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (press) were in attendance together with four members of the public.

Public Forum: Mrs D Dockerill of Flaxfields reported that the South Cambridgeshire district council (SCDC) environmental health officer, John Wilson, had visited to check the lighting and give his recommendations.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Manley.

Welcome: Ms Merrie Mannassi was welcomed to the council and her declaration of acceptance of office form was signed.

Declaration of interests from members: Cllr Dew declared a prejudicial interest under the Nichols Court item. Cllr Bald declared a prejudicial interest under the payments item.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July: The clerk confirmed that the county council would not sanction the use of a mirror at the entrance to the Health Centre. They had suggested that the vegetation be cut back hard to improve visibility. The clerk would arrange for this work to be carried out.

Cllr Hickford reported that he had spoken to the PCSOs regarding speeding at the Bartlow Road junction. They had suggested that this be brought up at the next police panel meeting scheduled for September.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues: Cllr Hickford reported on a break-in at the pavilion during the early hours of 8th July. A good response from the police had been received but unfortunately the information had not been passed back from the central database to the local police until 14th July (and only after intervention by Cllr Hickford) when investigations had commenced. However the local PCSOs had been very helpful. Cllr Potter was asked to send a list of stolen items to the clerk.

It was noted that the police station opening hours had been deleted from the sign at the High Street/Balsham Road junction.

Report from the county councillor: Cllr Batchelor reported that this year's county budget would be reduced by £10m and a reduction of 25% over three years was expected. In reality the youth service budget would be cut from £3m to £2m from November.

Report from the district councillors: Cllr Bear reported that the district council had agreed to move the Green Lane sign to the opposite side of the road. However negotiation with the owners of the wall would be required prior to fixing as a free standing

sign would not be suitable in that location. Cllr Bald requested signs for Palmers Close and Dodger's Lane.

The previous government had consulted with the district council on housing stock and had proposed that a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) be imposed. This would mean that all councils holding housing stock would take on a collective debt (£197m for SCDC) to be borrowed at fixed rate. The district council would then retain all housing rent and proceeds from the sale of council houses. Currently the government takes 75% of income raised by the sale of houses and 52% from rent. A 30 year pay back system would be a good deal in the long term. However SCDC was negotiating to reduce the sum of £197m which it considered to be unfair.

Nichols Court update: Cllr Hickford reported that three councillors and several residents had been given a tour of Nichols Court. The overlooking was much worse than had been envisaged. It had been advised that the criteria for allocation of a unit was age 60+ and in need of a minimum of one hour care per week. However this may change if places were not filled. Linton residents or those with connections to Linton were given priority. However South Cambridgeshire residents were not being given priority over those from other areas including Haverhill. The building was initially intended for South Cambridgeshire residents only.

The following response from Ray McMurray, SCDC planning officer, had been received just prior to the meeting. 'The council's environmental health officer, John Wilson, met with Mr Allan Howard who is a member of the Institute of Lighting Engineers to check the lighting and give his recommendations. He took various readings and will be sending a report to Sanctuary Hereward. From the tone of the meeting Mr Wilson felt that there will be some alteration to the existing lighting which will help the residents. When the lighting proposals have been finalised they will form the basis of a planning application on which the public will be consulted. The council's landscape officers have provided detailed advice to the developer concerning additional planting around the perimeter of the site. This includes a minimum of five trees on the southern boundary adjacent to the rear boundaries of 18-20 Symonds Lane....'

Review of Cathodeon centre planning application: Cllr Batchelor confirmed that Linton library was safe from closure and was being promoted as an example of good practice. Concerns were again raised regarding safety during evening use. It was not felt that access around the front of the building to the back door was an improvement on the existing route. Concerns were raised that there were places where undesirables could hide, especially in the vicinity of the sheds. Moving these sheds to the other end of the site would not eliminate any danger. There were also concerns regarding the steep banking along the west side of the

building. Cllr Bald suggested the centre be extended to include storage, a meeting room and porch. After much discussion Cllr Potter proposed that the Cathodeon trustees consider the parish council's request, on health and safety grounds, for a permanent evening entrance on the south side of the building. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt. Cllr Krarup requested that a recorded vote take place. In favour: Cllrs Bald, Champion, Cox, Dew, Gee, Hickford, Hunt, Linsdell, Potter and Wilson (10). Against: None. Abstentions: Cllrs Krarup and Mannassi (2). Proposal carried.

Written reports from council representatives: Cllr Cornell reported that the county council estates department would be withdrawing their objection to Camping Close being designated as a village green.

Wind farm update: Cllr Hickford reported that a preliminary non specific timetable for the inquiry in September had been received. Council were aware that Enertrag would be cross examining AECOM, highways consultants. The inspector would allow council to be Rule 6 status on highways which had come as a great surprise. This would mean that council could ask its witness questions and seek legal advice. A decision was required on whether to take up this option. Cllrs Champion and Mannassi both stated that having come this far council should not stop now. Cllr Hickford proposed that up to £5k be spent on legal representation. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gee. A vote took place with 10 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. Proposal carried.

It was suggested that council writes to local parish councils requesting a donation towards the costs.

Correspondence received and for discussion: Notification of giant hogweed on the river bank had been received from the environmental health department. Cllr Cox reported that giant hogweed was growing in a neighbouring garden and was seeding down river. It was agreed to ask the grounds maintenance contractor to check the river bank and to scythe and collect up the seed heads for safe disposal.

Advice had been received regarding a request for a donation from a Brownies group. All Section137 funding for the year had been allocated therefore the request would be refused. The group would be invited to re-apply at the correct time later in the year prior to precept.

Reports from councillors (for information only): Cllr Hunt reported that Linton Action for Youth had offered to help plant trees and hedging in the village. It was agreed that they should liaise with Mrs Susan Anderson, tree warden. They also wished to plant wild flower seeds and bulbs on the bank in Stanton's Lane. Permission from the county council should be sought.

Cllr Potter reported that the recreation ground gate would be left unlocked until works to repair the pavilion, following the break in, had been completed.

The chair reported on the sad death of Mr Barry Brewer. Mr Brewer had been involved with the Aztecs football club and youth football for many years and his contribution to the community would be sadly missed. She extended the council's sympathy to his family.

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

LINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Clerk to the council – Mrs Sue Parry
Email: lintonpc@btconnect.com
Website: www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk
Office hours: Monday 9am–12noon and 4–5.30pm, Tuesday–Friday 9am–12noon
Or by appointment

Dates for full council meetings:
September 2nd and 16th, October 7th and 21st 2010
All meetings held at the Cathodeon centre following the public forum commencing at 8pm

Council and committee representatives

THE current appointed council representatives and committee representatives are as listed below.

Committee representatives:

Planning Committee - Cllrs Bald (chair), Linsdell, Hunt (vice chair), Wilson and Dew.
Finance Committee - Cllrs Krarup, Gee, Cox, Linsdell, Hickford (vice-chair), Potter (chair) and Cornell.
Staff Sub-committee - chair (Cllr Cornell), vice-chair (Cllr Bald) and chairs of Planning and Finance.

Council representatives:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC) - vacancy.
Directors, Linton Parish Publications - Cllrs Krarup, Cox and Hunt.
Trustees to Cathodeon Trust - PC trustee Cllr Krarup.
Mr Andrew Gore and Dr Val Urwin continue in office.
Charles & Mary Anderson Trust - Cllr Cornell.
Linton Granta Bowls club - Cllr Krarup.
Linton Granta Football Sports & Social club - Cllrs Potter, Cornell and Manley.
Police Liaison - Cllrs Hickford and Champion.
Public Transport - Cllr Linsdell.

Village Hall - Cllr Hunt.
Tree Warden - Mrs Susan Anderson.
River, Wildlife and Leadwell Meadows Warden - to be appointed.
Linton Action for Youth - Cllrs Hickford and Hunt.
Working groups (advisory committees):
Open Spaces and Environment - Cllrs Gee, Bald and Hunt.
Recreation ground - Cllrs Krarup, Hickford, Potter and Manley.
Cemetery - Cllrs Gee, Bald, Wilson and assistant clerk.
Rights of Way - Cllr Krarup (Mr Ralph Robinson, Mr Bob Hammett and Dr Judy Rossiter co-opted).
Venture Playground - Cllrs Krarup, Hickford and Potter.
Glebe Land - Cllr Cox.
Churchyard - Cllrs Bald, Cox and Wilson (maximum of 3).
A1307, Traffic and Recreation ground Parking - Cllrs Cornell, Gee, Bald, Hickford, Champion and Manley.
Youth - Cllrs Cornell, Hickford and Hunt.
Allotments - Cllrs Cornell, Bald, Linsdell and Hickford.
Staff appraisals - Cllrs Gee and Krarup.
CCTV control group - Cllrs Hickford, Gee and Potter.
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