

Christmas Tree
festival
12-14th December
St Mary's

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E & E PLUMRIDGE
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'State of the art' health centre all set for an exciting future



Above is the new look health centre
below, the refurbished workroom of dispensers
Carole, Harriet and Kim



THE ground floor of the health centre has been extended both front and back and provides an additional 10 clinical rooms for our doctors, nurses and other health professionals. We have a new minor surgery theatre, which is used by all the doctors for various procedures. Our additional consulting rooms provide much greater flexibility and may enable us to offer accommodation to visiting clinicians from the hospital in the future.

The front extension includes three dedicated teaching rooms. We have been a teaching practice for many years, involved in both the training of general practice registrars and the training of medical students from Cambridge University. A generous bequest from the late Sir Arthur Marshall has enabled us to install specialist audio-visual equipment, which mirrors the training facilities at the hospital. We now feel we have the ideal facilities to help train the future generation of doctors.

In addition to the two ground floor extensions, we have added two rooms upstairs and have also completely refurbished our dispensary, reception and admin area. It has been an exciting time for the practice and all the staff have worked so hard to ensure that the service to patients has been maintained throughout.

The project was completed at the beginning of October which coincided with the retirement of the senior partner, Dr James Hewlett after 28 years with the practice. Dr Hewlett timed his retirement so that he could guide the practice through the building project and leave us with state-of-the-art facilities for the future.

The partners marked Dr Hewlett's retirement with a dinner at St Catherine's college and took the opportunity to welcome the new partner, Dr Yashshree Uttarwar. Dr Uttarwar previously worked not too far away in Ongar and is looking forward to getting to know the practice area and patients.

Dr Silverman & partners



Above, Dr Arbide in his
new consulting room;
below, practice sister
Fiona Wharton in the new
treatment room



Pictures by Roger Lapwood

To everyone in our community

AT both Linton CE infant school and Linton Heights junior school, all voices in the local community matter to us. We appreciate some people find it more difficult to access the school and make their opinions known, because of language difficulties or physical access problems.

We are seeking a wide range of experiences and views that will help us remove barriers as we strive to involve our whole community more fully.

If you are interested in taking part in an informal chat about your experiences, please contact the infant school office on 891421 or by e-mail at office@linton-inf.cambs.sch.uk

We will hold this discussion at 10am on Monday 15th December at the infant school. We would appreciate if you intend to join us that you respond by 12th December.

Your participation will be greatly appreciated by all members of our schools.

Thank you for your continued support.

Linton CE infant school and
Linton Heights junior school

Slum survivor ...



Hungry and cold: the young people who experienced two days' deprivation during Slum Survivor

Picture by Louise Rose

THIRTY-ONE young people from The Beacon Community Trust youth group, Impact, spent the last weekend in October the way a billion people spend a lifetime – in settlements or slums. They built their own huts, ate only two meals of rice and lentils a day and took part in various challenges to simulate slum life. They made the following comments:

"I really think I learnt a lot from the experience. By the end of the weekend I was dead on my feet, and that was only after two days! I really wish we could help those who have to put up with it week after week." **Dan Thorne (14)**

"Slum Survivor was challenging in many ways. I found it hard to live in the conditions we set up over the weekend. It's hard to imagine that's how people have to spend a lifetime. Slum Survivor has been a valuable experience and one I will always remember ..." **Nicole Tweed (17)**

"It never ceases to astound me how difficult I find Slum Survivor each year. Whether I'm hungry, cold or just lacking energy, I always seem to struggle through the couple of days. So I promise myself 'never again!' but every year I seem to come back for more ... all of a sudden your life is stripped down to being very simple, then you start to think about the important things in life. This year especially, the sense of community, the closeness to God and our passion for the poor was really something I will draw on in my everyday life." **Emma Rice (14)**

"I thought the hardest bit was no food and also the constant thought in your mind 'Yes only one more day' but to know for many people, they have no hope." **Angharad Bowen (13)**

The young people hoped to have reached their target of £2000 for 'Soul Action' once all the sponsorship money has been collected. (You can still give online www.justgiving.com/slum-survivor-linton)

For more information, please contact me.

Louise Rose 894859 or visit www.beacontrust.org

... and Field of Hope

AT 2pm on Saturday 25th October, the 30 slum dwellers, living in their home-made shelters on basic food rations, raising awareness of how a billion people around the world spend a lifetime, arrived on the green outside the library to complete one of their Slum Survivor weekend tasks, organised by the Impact youth group and the Beacon Community Trust.

The young people, aged between 13 and 18, were given more than 300 bulbs to plant in the bank facing the Horsehead Road, Bartlow Road and High Street junction. The Field of Hope was in support of Marie Curie Cancer Care aim of planting a million daffodil bulbs this autumn.

The bulbs were divided amongst the slum groups and they were given only one trowel per group to complete their planting. The young people worked together, using sticks to help create planting furrows.

We were pleased to have been joined by members of our community to find out more about the Slum Survivor weekend, to help with the planting and to see what we were doing. We offered tea, coffee, juice and biscuits to our visitors and only water for the slum dwellers. Our collection for Marie Curie Cancer Care raised £28.21.

Thankfully the weather was dry on the Saturday but the Sunday brought heavy rain, watering the bulbs in beautifully. We hope they will brighten this bank and will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Our thanks go to Linton parish council for granting permission to plant the bulbs and to the Anderson Trust, whose kind donation enabled this event to happen.

For further information, please contact me.

Sue Filby 07880 735 623



Daffodils of hope: 'Slum dwellers' planting the bulbs

Picture submitted by Sue Filby

Wonder of Christmas

THERE are various stories about the first Christmas trees. One tells that when Christianity first came to Northern Europe, three virtues, Faith, Hope and Charity, were sent from heaven to find a tree as high as hope, as great as love, as sweet as charity, and with the sign of the cross on every bough. The search ended in the forests of the north where the fir tree was found. Lit by the stars' radiance, it was the first Christmas tree.

Another legend tells us that Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant faith, walking through the forest one Christmas Eve, was awed by the beauty of the stars shining through the branches of the evergreen trees. He cut a small tree and took it home and, to recreate the same starlight beauty, he placed candles on all its branches to remind himself and his children of the magnificence of God's creation.

St Mary's is holding its first Christmas tree festival over the weekend of 12th-14th December. The church will be lit up by more than 20 trees decorated by individuals or groups to interpret a variety of carols. The festival begins with the church opening to visitors on Friday at 10am. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available from 6pm and the church will close at 9pm. On Saturday, the church will be open from 10am-5pm. There will be coffee, lunches and teas in the infant school hall, where there will also be a select number of stalls, including tombola, the Friends' gift stall, cake and bottle stalls.

On Sunday the trees can be viewed from 11am-5pm and refreshments will be available in the pavilion. The festival will conclude with an informal sing-in of carols. Entry will be by programme for adults and free for children. We hope you will put the dates in your diaries and be able to share in this celebration as we approach Christmas and anticipate the coming of God's son into his wonderfully created world.

Glynis Younger, parish church secretary

We have a new editor

YOU may remember Stéphane Toussnel from an article about the London marathon earlier this year. I am delighted to report that he has offered to put some of his energies into taking over the editorship of the *Linton News*.

Stéphane moved to the village with his wife and two daughters about a year ago and has quickly become integrated into the community. As well as running marathons (he recently completed the Nice marathon with an improved time). Stéphane is also a

member of the badminton club and the family are regular churchgoers.

He will gradually take over from me during the next few months. I hope he enjoys the work as much as I have. I am also very grateful to all the other people who volunteered their services and have agreed to be back-up if needed. You may yet join the *Linton News* team! From comments made to me over the past few weeks, there are many of you who will be as pleased as I am.

Editor

THOUGHTS FROM THE SANTA RANTA

AS the world trudges wearily towards 2009, keen to forget the state of the housing market and the desperately sad plight of thousands of bankers, this is perhaps a good opportunity to look back at a year of turmoil with a sense of perspective.

It is true that being in negative equity is painful, but house prices are sure to climb again and, just like when it happened at the beginning of the last decade, we will all be filled with renewed hope. Most people are not really suffering anyway - the fact that holidays are shorter and our homes aren't being filled with unnecessary tat from Argos doesn't have to mean times are particularly hard. It is only temporary, after all. For much of the world we live in (but choose to ignore, however) hardship is permanent.

Vast disposable incomes for the masses were unthinkable not that long ago. Today, it is demanded as a right, when all we really need is food and shelter. Everything else is simply wanted. Huge sums are still spent by businesses and billionaires, and often to the detriment of our world. The expansion of Stansted airport will go ahead because our growing population apparently needs greater access to the skies. This will lead to the A14 and M11 motorway having to be widened to cope with the increased traffic.

Donald Trump's wealth has seemingly overthrown due process, and he is to spend around £1 billion developing a part of Aberdeenshire enjoyed by birds and other wildlife. The reason? He fancies his own golf course, just 4,000 miles from his front door. The need for our countryside is decreasing while the need for urbanisation and fripperies takes precedence.

Money worries are crucial to our ever-excitable media, so 2008 has been wonderful for them. Unfortunately, the fact that food and oil prices keep rising means that other news items are forgotten within a couple of days.

They now appear bored when a teenager is murdered by another rather than outraged that dozens of such instances happen each year now. A hero from the North Atlantic during World War Two beaten black and blue by an intruder on Armistice Day was forgotten about by 12th November.

Social workers in Haringey were openly criticised over the death of a toddler who had inexplicably slipped through the safety net. All news channels paid for their reporters to hassle councillors rather than look at why so many of this country's children need protecting from their own parents.

There are some truly awful things going on in this world. Having less money isn't one of them, even at this time of year. Christmas is, but not exclusively, an ideal time for the warmth of family and friends. It's not about who has bought the biggest goose at a time when the bankers have already cooked theirs.

Watch out for water



The offending water hole outside Sweet Talk News

Picture by Brian Cox

PEDESTRIANS were fascinated to see a small fountain erupting from the pavement in the High Street near Sweet Talk News on Saturday 1st November. A call to Anglian Water established that several people had reported the leak and Cambridge Water had been advised.

By teatime, the fountain had become a stream and by midday on Sunday the water had opened a hole in the road. Water was gushing out, much of it by-passing the drain and flowing on to a further drain in Symonds Lane, where the force had heaped up leaves in the road.

Cambridge Water erected a safety barrier in the High Street on Monday (to stop toddlers enjoying a paddle?) but the stream became a river and the road was closed later that day. Buses were diverted to travel along Symonds Lane to avoid

the hazard.

The drama was concluded when an emergency crew from Cambridge Water arrived on Tuesday, repaired the leak and the hole in the road and removed the barrier. It is now hard to see where the small fountain could have been.

Cambridge Water advise that they take all leaks very seriously, but with 2,300km of water mains (long enough to stretch from Lands End to John O'Groat's and back) winding their way to 125,000 homes and businesses, it is inevitable that there will be some water loss through minor leaks and seepage. They are keen for anyone to report a leak as soon as possible by phoning their free helpline - 0800 316 76 76 - and they will repair it as soon as possible depending on the severity of other leaks which have been reported.

Kate France 891602



Sammy's report on ...

The senior citizens' Christmas party

EVERY year in early December the year nine students (with a little help and guidance from Mrs Jenny Pullin) hold a Christmas coffee morning for our local senior citizens, at Linton village college. The students raise money to pay for the event in various ways such as cake sales, raffles and doing odd jobs around the home.

This year on 5th December, the guests will be brought by coach to the college to be greeted by students. They will be served with tea and homemade Christmas food, prepared and served by the students. The school's harmony choir will sing a selection of Christmas carols; there will be a raffle and other entertainment. It has become an important part of the school year for the year nine students. They not only need to raise enough money to cover the whole event, but also organise the entertainment, supply the raffle prizes and make and wrap all the Christmas gifts for the guests to take home: in short, to organise and run the day.

The guests always seem to enjoy themselves thoroughly and appreciate the time and trouble that the school goes to on their behalf and it is nice to think that the younger generation is doing something to help their elders. I hope that they all enjoy themselves as much as I did when I was a year nine - it was a really good experience!

Sammy Miners

In an age when there seems to be mostly bad press for youngsters, it is lovely to see Linton students, with support from staff, raising the funds and organising this annual Christmas party for our senior citizens. They deserve a pat on the back. Editor

PLODDING ALONG An update on police matters

FROM 1-5pm on Tuesday 9th December in the village hall, the Linton neighbourhood policing team and the community safety unit are hosting a crime prevention event for all residents to attend free of charge.

The team will be on hand to offer advice and answer

any questions you may have regarding safety in and around the home.

We will be bringing some target hardening equipment, which will be offered free of charge. We hope to see you there!

Linton neighbourhood policing team

Sorting out problems at the sports centre

IN July, a number of sports centre users met Mark Wilson, the sports centre manager, and Duncan Clay, from the village college governors.

Users were pleased with the quality equipment in the fitness suite and the helpful staff who monitor the use of the equipment and offer advice to members. The level of cleanliness in changing rooms and in the showers is now very good and the showers work well.

Members were less happy with the shortage of parking spaces during the building

works. Mark was asked to negotiate with the contractors for more spaces and also to gain better access for disabled members as the current situation was not good enough.

Membership was continuing to grow and many returning college and university students had taken advantage of the reduced temporary membership deal for summer use. A similar arrangement would be offered in the shorter holidays.

Linton was still very competitive on price compared to the other facilities in the area.

There was some discussion about how to ensure people knew that the sports centre remained fully open during the building works. It was decided to use more signs and local publicity.

Members were pleased to air their views at the meeting. If you use the centre and can see how things can be improved, come along to the next user group meeting or email your views to me.

Mark Wilson 892048
www.linton-sport-fitness.co.uk

Sheducate: is your shed secure?

THE value of property in sheds and garages is more than people think. Thieves may target them for power tools, cycles and sports equipment. Hand tools stolen from sheds and garages can be used to break into homes. Secure the access to your shed or garage by locking gates and using thorny bushes next to walls and fences.

Have you visibly marked the contents of your shed? Make a note of serial numbers and photograph valuable plants, ornaments, machinery and equipment. External security lights, which are activated by movement, are a useful deterrent.

Doors of sheds require attention. Use strong padbars and close shackle padlocks. Up-and-over garage doors supplied with standard lock fittings should also be fitted

with a padlock. Windows should be secured with locks or grilles. Extra care should be taken with garages where access can be gained to the home.

Use coach bolts or non-return screws to secure door hinges and locks. Chain cycles, mowers, ladders and tools to a strong anchorage point. Alarms for sheds and garages are available for under £20 at most DIY stores, catalogue shops and builders' merchants. Exactly what insurance cover do you have? Check that your household policy covers you for theft from your gardens or outbuildings.

Together we'll crack crime. Join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. For further crime prevention advice visit www.cambs.police.uk/crimeprevention/advice

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A smoky, fishy tale



NOVEMBER: dark and dank outside but a warm feeling pervades the WI as they prepare for the festive season.

Ann Simpkin welcomed all and Brenda Smith read last month's minutes. The new members' coffee morning was well-attended; the strolling group had a very enjoyable time and another is arranged. The quiz will have taken place by the time this is published; we hope Linton does well as we have entered three teams.

Christmas tree festival at St Mary's - Linton WI will be decorating one of the trees. Christmas party tickets were distributed and as this is our 65th anniversary, a special event with entertainment has been arranged at Chalklands community room.

Our speaker for the evening was Dan Woodford from the River Farm Smokery at Bottisham. The smokery began 25 years ago when some old RAF huts were purchased. Dan started at the company in January 2005, when a friend who was running it asked him if he would like to join them. He had no experience, as he was an IT manager! He took up the challenge and has found it very hard, smoky, dirty work, especially as the kilns are old and leaky. Trying to keep them up to the correct temperature is very difficult and requires constant attention; however the results are first class.

The company provides for many top restaurants, pubs and catering establishments. We had an opportunity to taste some of the products; salmon, duck, pigeon, mackerel and olives - very delicious. Many of our members enjoyed these tasters and they decided they would certainly visit the smokery very soon.

The next event will be our Christmas party on 2nd December at Chalklands: this will be a members only evening.
Tricia Lewis 893609

Too good for jumble...

A MITSUBISHI Diamond Plus 220 computer monitor or the 15in Dell computer monitor might be useful for the Christmas games; maybe an almost new Fisher Price baby bath as a gift? Other gifts could be the Casiotone CT 450 stereo keyboard with instructions (battery or mains operated) the set of Morse videos with book about the stories, the Morphy Richards radio alarm clock LCD display or the Samsung fax machine/photocopier. The Silver Cross pram is still on offer and £5 would secure the 5ft artificial Christmas tree.

The Sony Colour TV raised £15 for Oxfam, the Britax pram raised £20 for Teenage Cancer Trust and the bubble wrap has gone to a good home. To buy any of the above or to offer an item to profit a charity, please call Kate France 891602 or email katefrance@linton48.freemove.co.uk

Readers write ...

A time to remember old friends

Dear Editor
It's almost three years since we left Linton and Christmas is looming, so to all our friends, the Linton News team, Granta Grapevine, Linton Jazz, WI and the Historical Society, you are not forgotten. A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to you all and the readers of this excellent paper.
We would be really sad not to receive our copy through the post each month. After 25 years as residents, it is good to keep in touch with you all. Very best wishes.
Clare and John Neville,
Holton, Halesworth

A Christmas card from Agnes

Dear friends all
I am sorry I cannot write to you all with Christmas cards.
Please accept from me, through our wonderful Linton News, my sincere season's greetings and all good wishes for the New Year.
With love from
**Agnes Smoothy
Symonds House**

Reminder of your responsibilities

Dear Editor
Each time our dogs poop, many animal owners, like myself, scoop up the poops.
Lately the river banks and paths, also bridleways are very filthy with dog excrement. Children's shoes and push-chair wheels get coated with these messes. Please make the effort to clean up after your dog. 'Scoop your poop', you know it makes sense.
Iris Tarver, Finchams Close

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We knew you'd come, so we baked cakes



Molly with the wonderful array of cakes for sale

Megan Till, 11, and Molly Beck, 12, led their group of Linton Guides by cooking for their stall at Linton farmers' market. The following report is the press release they were required to do.

ON Saturday 1st November some 2nd Linton Guides held a cake stall at the local farmers' market.

As a result of their hard work they managed to raise an astonishing £103.15 for the Teenage Cancer Trust at Addenbrooke's Hospital. They baked scones, cakes and chocolate truffles, which were deemed "absolutely moreish". They hope that the money will help to buy some of the equipment they need.

The Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire, Hugh Durberry, challenged Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section members of Girl-

guiding Cambridgeshire East to be proud citizens of Cambridgeshire. They were invited to prepare a presentation to show pride in their community; visit a place of interest in Cambridgeshire and find out about one of the county's emergency services.

They were also asked to raise funds for a local charity, improve the appearance of their area or entertain another age group outside guiding. As part of the challenge, they were asked to write a press release on one of the above activities.

LNT



Megan advertises the girls' cake sale

Pictures supplied by Molly and Megan

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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
 - Yoga, 7-8.30pm Mondays term time Hadstock VH
 - Whist drive, 7.30pm Mondays VH
 - Men's all-age keep fit club, 8pm Mondays SC
 - Ladies' netball, 7.15-8.30pm Mondays SC
 - Cempa wu-shu karate, 7-8pm Mondays (age 5 upwards) LVC
 - Scrabble club, 10am-12noon alternate Tuesdays from 9/9, Dog & Duck LVC
 - 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
 - WEA, 10am Tuesdays VH
 - Yoga, 7.30pm Tuesdays term time Hildersham VH
 - Yoga, 1-2.45pm Wednesdays term time VH
 - Linton radio race car club, 6-10pm Wednesdays VH
 - Men's keep fit club, 8pm Wednesdays SC
 - Linton theatre workshop, Wednesdays (call 892076) SC
 - Tots-in-tow, 10-11.30am Wednesdays term time VH
 - Music Matters, 9.45am & 11am Thursdays VH
 - LVC badminton club, 8-10pm Thursdays SC
 - Carpet bowls, 7.30pm Thursdays VH
 - Rhyme'n'rhythm tots music group, Fridays 10.30 & 1.30 term time URC
 - Junior basketball, 6-7pm Fridays SC
 - Bridge club, 7pm Fridays CC
 - Adult tap dancing, 7.15-8pm Fridays term time VH
 - Granta badminton club, 8-10pm Fridays SC
- For Sports Centre courses please call Mark Wilson 890248*

DECEMBER

- 1 Cricket club AGM, 8pm Pavilion
- 2 **WI, 7.30pm** VH
- 3 Reading group, 8pm Dog and Duck
- 4 Parish council, 8pm CC
- 6 **Farmers' market, 9.30am** VC
- 6 **Camera club outing, 9.30am** Coles Lane car park
- 6 **Christmas bazaar, 1pm** Symonds House
- 6 Linton Granta playgroup Christmas fair, 2pm VH
- 7 Christingle service, 3pm St Mary's
- 9 VIP group, 1pm Chalklands
- 9 **Gardening club, 7.30pm** VH
- 9 **Crime prevention meeting, 1-5pm** VH
- 11 **Music Matters! Christmas special** VH
- 11 Luncheon club, 12.15pm Crown
- 12/13 **Christmas tree festival, 10am** St Mary's
- 13 **Linton music society concert, 7.30pm** St Mary's
- 14 **Christmas tree festival, 11am** St Mary's
- 14 **Mendelssohn's Elijah, 7pm** Hamlet Road, Haverhill
- 15 **Infant/junior schools' discussion, 10am** Infant school
- 15 **Camera club AGM & Christmas social, 7.15pm** CC
- 16 Historical society, 7.30pm VH
- 17 CAMTAD hearing help, 9am-12noon Health centre
- 18 Welsh Highland railways meeting, 8pm Black Bull, Balsham
- 19 **ACE lunch and speaker, 12noon** St Mary's pavilion
- 21 Carol service, 6pm St Mary's

JANUARY

- 3 NO farmers' market
- 3 Friends of St Mary's coffee & mince pies, 11am VH
- 6 **WI, 7.30pm** VH
- 7 Village hall committee meeting, 8pm VH
- 8 Parish council, 8pm CC
- 12 **Adult education new term**
- 13 **Gardening club, 7.30pm** VH
- 20 Historical society, 7.30pm VH

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

Refuse collection: 8th, 22nd December, 5th January
Recycling collection: 1st, 15th, 29th December

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

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Healthy eating days bear fruit



Smiles all round: children enjoy their healthy snacks

Picture by Roger Lapwood

WHAT excitement was had at Linton Heights on their two health promoting schools days in October. For two days pupils were mixed into different groups and spent time with every teacher designing healthy lunch boxes, participating in delicious fruit tasting sessions, writing poetry using the letters in their names as the basis for acrostic poems about healthy and unhealthy foods, testing their fitness during sports relay events and even sewing a small piece of fruit or letter to make a beautiful wall-hanging that now takes pride of place in the school hall. It was a fantastic stimulus to help launch the National Healthy Schools initiative, which the children clearly enjoyed.

Among their comments were:

"I enjoyed it because everything was a treat and it was fun."

"We did lots of sports and ate new fruits."

"It has taught me a lot about healthy eating."

"I liked it because we got to meet and work with other children and teachers across the whole school."

Healthy Schools co-ordinator Mrs Loe said: "We hope that the children feel more motivated to change the way they live and that the community feels ready to embrace the changes needed to make Linton Heights a National Healthy School."

Headteacher Jennifer Malone added that it was a wonderful way to launch one of the three strands of the new school council at Linton Heights. "We were very encouraged to see the children taking responsibility for these important issues and to see their genuine enthusiasm during the two days."

The other two strands of the school council involve eco-schools and issues affecting pupils, such as playtime behaviour. The three school council teams look forward to being able to tell you more about their activities and progress in the very near future.

The staff at Linton Heights would like to thank the management at Waitrose in Saffron Walden for the donation of £20 of fruit that went towards the fruit tasting sessions.

Jennifer Malone, headteacher

A lovely trip ... and home for lunch

AFTER the post fireworks deluge, the Camera club members thought that the November away-day might be cancelled, but the morning was bright and the sky clear. Several carloads travelled along the A1307 to Wandlebury, anxious that the overnight wind had not blown away the autumn leaves, but we were in luck – the place wasn't yet too busy and the trees were beautiful. A bonus was that we could all be home for lunch as it was just on our doorstep.

On a personal note, I have not visited Wandlebury since the early 90s and now I realise what I have been missing. Just wandering around the trees in the peace is a good way to wind down after a week's work – I aim to go there at least once for all four seasons to get a nice contrast of photographs; I hope it will snow this year to make the place even more striking.

The next Camera club event is an away day to Mill Road winter fair in Cambridge on Saturday 6th December. This will be opened by the Mayor at Ditchburn Place at 10am, followed by entertainment along the street with many shops/organisations having special offers, displays and events along the whole of Mill Road right up to 5pm. Please go to www.mill-road.com/winterfair for a timetable of events, pictures from previous years and an explanation of what it is all about. This is not just limited to members; anyone can visit to see what a diverse group of people live and work in Mill Road, Cambridge.

Our AGM and Christmas celebration will be at 7.15-9.15pm on Monday 15th December, at the Cathodeon centre back room. After rapidly appointing the movers and shakers onto the

Roger Lapwood, (a popular LN photographer) takes a picture at Wandlebury



Picture by Tracey Wilson

committee and discussing any ideas for future away days, the rest of the evening will be given over to drinks, nibbles and members' photos.

For information on the club, please go to our website, www.lintoncameraclub.org.uk or phone Roger on 891104 or Tracey on 891988.

Tracey Wilson

Rueful smiles and tales of war at the ACEs' lunch

WHEN ACEs met for lunch on 30th October, with Remembrance Day close, we heard tales of recent warfare. The similarities and dangers to those of earlier wars did bring a few rueful smiles and comments, especially the comparison of our equipment to that of our American allies!

Captain Su Shaw talked on 'A Girl's Guide to the Gulf War', with stories of her time before and during the recent war in Saudi Arabia.

Su was not the typical army nurse, and told stories that you would never see in the media. Who else could so graphically describe the

effects of the anti-gas medications? Who knew of the chick-enpox epidemic among the troops? - a very virulent form, made worse by the extremes of temperature.

Daytime temperatures were 40 Celcius, causing unbearable itching; at night, a drop to -10C caused the scabs to shrink painfully. This was a biological enemy that we had not expected - although Su and I knew exactly what biologics they had used (we worked together on infection control teams in Saudi before the war and had seen the effects ... and the bodies). We heard about the sanitation

and food, the terrain and the tents, and the problems (and advantages!) of being one of the few females among so many men.

It was an excellent insight into the reality of war and life on the front line, although there were plenty of comical and heart-warming moments, too. Su donated her fee to the Royal British Legion to aid others who had been affected by conflict - a noble gesture much appreciated.

We had our Christmas shopping trip on 10th November, to Frosts garden centre. We took the scenic route towards Bedford, and an even

better route back. We had our favourite driver but, as usual, he did not organise suitable weather - rain again! We had a cheery time despite that, and took a chunk out of our shopping lists.

The next event is lunch, on 19th December, at the church pavilion (please note venue) meeting at 12 for 12.30pm.

Brace yourself for turkey salad and mince pies; the festive season starts here! The speaker will be Garth Collard recalling events of Linton's fiery past. As ever, all those over 60 are welcome - call 891069 to book transport.

Enid Bald

Lively gardeners' question time tests experts

A PANEL of experts assembled to brave the questions of the gardening club's members and to try to offer solutions to spice up our tricky borders, save our not-so-happy specimens and fight off those persistent pests.

Alan Bidwell and Kevin Marsh from Beeches Nursery, Judy Nightingale and Val Spencer, with Dr Charles Attwood in the chair, all rose to the challenge magnificently.

It is hard to report on such a varied meeting as many questions arose from specific issues members faced. However there were some general tips offered and it is these that I shall try to pass on.

Firstly, don't fight your local conditions; grow plants that, in the wild, prefer your type of patch. This may mean not growing plants that thrive only a matter of streets away, as the soil type can change very rapidly.

Secondly, ensure that your soil is well aerated as this will benefit both the essential microbes and the plants too.

Thirdly, follow good hygiene, especially when pruning, to prevent transferring disease to healthy plants. Finally, something to help husbands. Don't make your wife too angry while she's gardening; a little nagging will increase her speed but a lot will drive her inside for a cuppa!

At 7.30pm on 9th December

we will meet to watch Penny Brown from The Flower Boutique show us how to make beautiful Christmas table decorations. This will be followed by a chance to socialise over mulled wine and mince pies. Do come and join us at the village hall as we start the festive season. If you could bring a wine glass, it would be most helpful; thank you.

Kirsten Newble 892425

lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

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Music leads the way this month

THERE is a strong musical flavour to the news this month, much of it to do with the approach of Christmas.

The **Cambridge Taverner Choir** will be singing at 7.30pm on Saturday 13th December in St Mary's, when Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, a joyous collection of expressive medieval carols set to evocative music and accompanied by harp, forms the centrepiece.

In addition, the choir will perform some of the best-loved British carols of the 20th century, including Ord's *Adam Lay Ybounden*, Howells' *A Spotless Rose*, and Vaughan-Williams' *This is the Truth from Above*.

The Cambridge Taverner Choir emerged from the Oxford and Cambridge choral tradition and has built a reputation for powerful and expressive performances.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance or from Sweet Talk News, 77 High Street, 893489. For a season's brochure or concert tickets, please contact 894460 or 897983.

The Haverhill Choral



Carol collection: the Cambridge Taverner Choir will be accompanied by a harp

Society is preparing for its concert performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at 7 pm on Sunday 14th December in the Old Independent Church, Hamlet Road, Haverhill.

Elijah will be sung by baritone Mark Oldfield, a soloist with ClassicFM, and the other performers are Katharine

Blundell (soprano), Elaine Henson (contralto), Nicholas Bewes (tenor) and Lauren Chinnery (treble).

Tickets (£8 including buffet supper afterwards) will soon be available from choir members, Roma Holmes (01440 705692) or at the door on the night.

Music Matters! is holding

a Christmas Special in the village hall from 10-11.30am on Thursday 11th December. There will be loads of seasonal fun for children under five and, of course, lots of music. To book a place or for more details, please contact Emma on 893140 or email es.mason@virgin.net

Festival of light is fun for the young

THIS month, the children of Chestnut playgroup have been learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light.

There was an opportunity to try Indian food including poppadoms, mango chutney, korma sauce, rice and sag aloo.

The children also made

their own cucumber raita.

As well as dressing in traditional clothes, they listened to Indian music and did Diwali dancing.

Many of them took home beautifully decorated Diva lanterns which they made themselves.

Other activities included



Dressing up time at the playgroup

Picture: Anya Brooks

making rangoli patterns and having their hands and arms decorated with traditional mendi patterns.

The playgroup is very grateful to Linton Tandoori for kindly supplying some delicious Indian food for the children to try.

Also this month, to promote Road Safety week, we have borrowed a resource box from Cambridge county council.

This enables us to simulate crossing the road with

a zebra crossing through role play.

The children have enjoyed dressing up as the police and a lollipop person, driving cars and learning all about being safe on the road, especially during the darker nights of winter.

They have received free fluorescent vests to wear in the dark from 3M and have enjoyed weighing and measuring themselves to work out the correct size car seats.

Hayley Donnan

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POT POURRI (47)

Simple number theory

- 1) Which two whole numbers have the same sum as their product?
- 2) Which three (non zero) whole numbers have the same sum as their product?
- 3) Which two numbers have the sum of their squares the same as their product?
- 4) Which two numbers (not necessarily different) have the sum of their squares equal to an integral multiple of their product?

Solution to No 46

This is a discount that makes no difference to the buyer! For example, if the price of the item is £2,000 net, then a 10% discount brings the net price to £1,800, add VAT at 17.5% - the final price is £2,115.

If the gross price is £2,350 (£2,000 + VAT), then a 10% discount makes the final price still £2,115.

In the first case, the VAT office gets £315 but in the latter case, it gets £350! So it pays not to be taken in by a discounted price alone.

Urania

NEWS IN BRIEF

Santa on a fire engine

SYMONDS House Christmas bazaar will welcome Father Christmas when he arrives on a fire engine by special arrangement with Linton fire service on Saturday 6th December. The bazaar will be held in the day centre (to the left of the front entrance hall) starting at 1pm.

Staff and supporters are planning a variety of stalls as well as a tombola, raffles and refreshments. Santa will arrive between 2 and 3pm with presents for children up to 10 years old. The bazaar is to raise money for a new sensory garden for Symonds House residents.

Kate France 891602

Sports centre's trainer

JON SHERIDAN is the new Linton sports centre's personal trainer for the fitness suite, who will take you through your agreed planned programme. A new therapist at the centre, **Jo Willis**, also offers a range of therapies from reflexology and colour therapy, to bio-energisier detox and Indian head massage.

Mark Wilson, manager 890248

How well read are you?

PIT your wits against this year's 'Books and Authors' Christmas quiz available at £2 from the Friends of St Mary's in December. The clues are initials, first those of the book title, then those of the author, so SAS/JA becomes *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen. Bound to keep you awake at night! Copies available from 1st December from Monica Clarkson 892988 and during the Christmas tree festival from 12th-14th December. The winner will be announced at midday on 3rd January in the village hall. Refreshments available.

Alan Clarkson

Farmers' markets

THE December farmers' market will be held as usual at 9.30am on 6th December. Please note that there will be NO farmers' market in January. The market resumes on the first Saturday in February.

Jan Lupton

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Remembrance Day in Linton



Silent tribute: the people of Linton remember the fallen of two world wars

Picture by Roger Lapwood

ON the afternoon of a fine autumn day, Sunday 9th November, the congregation at St Mary's were joined by representatives of the parish council, the Air Training Corps, scouts and guides, and the fire service, to remember the fallen.

The service was led by the Ven Alan Clarkson and Rev John Hardaker and the

names of those who died in the First and Second World Wars were read by Mrs Mary Thompson of the Linton ATC.

On this 90th anniversary of the end of the 1914-1918 War, Alan Clarkson spoke about the unimaginable horrors and consequences of the war and the need to

work ever harder for peace in our hearts, our homes, our communities, our nation and the world.

Many in the congregation marched up to the war memorial in the cemetery where a short service was held.

Alan Clarkson

The Way We Were: Page 8

It's a time of change for St Mary's

IS change a good thing? Is change necessary? Can anything that is really relevant be accomplished without change?

Interesting questions—questions which would evoke different responses, perhaps, from people living in this area. Certainly the Church of England has changed in the last 50 years in many ways, although perhaps some of us might say that it has not changed enough!

Yet a century ago, most parishes in this area had their own priests, who lived in large rectories, staffed by housekeepers, cooks and gardeners.

Now parishes are combined into teams or groups, with a team rector and perhaps one or two team vicars, supported by retired priests, authorised and licensed lay ministers and the laity themselves.

Currently, the parish of St Mary is vacant after the departure of Mark Mills-Powell, and we wait for a new rector to be named. This could be some time, but things are moving in the Linton team ministry. We are expanding from five parishes (Linton, Bartlow, Castle and Shudy Camps and Horseheath) to eight, with the incorporation of Great and Little Abington and Hildersham.

Rev Graham Ridgwell continues as one of our team vicars, with pastoral responsibility for the Camps and Horseheath, and we will have a new arrival, due in late January, when Rev Dr Julie Norris is inducted as team vicar with pastoral responsibility for the Abingtons and Hildersham.

Julie is currently curate for a group of parishes based around Orwell and Barrington to the south-west of Cambridge, and she, together with her husband and children, will be moving to Little Abington. We are delighted to welcome her as she takes on general responsibilities for one aspect of ministry across the eight parishes.

There are exciting times ahead, we trust, for the church in this area and for the development of ecumenical ministry across all denominations.

Michael Younger, Churchwarden, St Mary's

Chef's corner with Joel



Different festive dinner

NOT everybody enjoys Christmas turkey with all the trimmings; some people simply haven't got the time or even the space. I feel this recipe can be done a day or two before the big day with fantastic results.

This type of cooking is one from the days without refrigeration when fat from the animal was used to preserve any meat. It is also a great way give you more time to spend as you please.

Duck confit with sweet braised red cabbage (serves four)

- 4 duck legs (French trimmed)
- 1 tin goose fat (450g) or 1 bar lard
- 1 head red cabbage (3lb/ 1.4kg)
- 1 tbsp salt (15ml)
- 2 tbsp butter (30ml)
- 1 tbsp veg oil (15ml)
- 1 large red onion sliced thinly
- 1 bay leaf and three cloves
- 1 pinch allspice
- 1 good glass red wine (250ml)
- 50 ml red wine vinegar
- 50 ml cola
- 3 tbsp white sugar

Method

Firstly, the duck legs need to be rubbed with the salt and left for four hours then washed with cold water

Now melt the fat in a large pan and immerse the legs until covered. Slowly poach the legs for about two hours and allow to cool.

When cool, take the legs and leave them in a container with the fat in the fridge. This will keep for three to four days like this.

Thinly slice the red cabbage and place in a large pan with the oil and the onions. Slowly sauté the mix, adding the seasoning and the spices, for about three to five minutes.

Then add the sugar and the liquid and bring to a simmer. Cover with a lid and slowly cook for about 50 minutes or until it becomes tender sweet.

This can be served straight away or popped into the fridge.

Serving up

In a thick-bottomed pan, place the legs skin-side down (remove as much fat as you can) and pop into a hot oven for 10 minutes.

Slowly warm the cabbage on the stove top. Turn over the legs for a further five to 10 minutes and allow to brown off. The cabbage can now be served on to plates and the duck legs can nestle on the top.

This is an alternative to the traditional but keeping to seasonal fare. You could serve potatoes or even noodles; it's a very versatile dish. A good red Bordeaux would work well with this recipe.

We wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sign up for the drama academy

THE Helen O'Grady Drama Academy is now running drama classes in Linton. In the summer term, every student gets the opportunity to take part in a production.

The picture shows two students acting out the opening scene from Great Expectations, where young Pip is caught by an escaped convict. Students

rehearsed and acted this scene in costume, as a fundraiser for Children in Need.

The academy provides children with a drama syllabus, designed to increase confidence and communicative ability, and to build performance skills.

Classes take place at LVC on Monday afternoons during term time: youth theatre (11-15)

from 3.15-4.30pm and upper primary (8-11) from 4.30-5.30pm. Principal Fiona Taylor will be delighted to talk to interested parents. Places are limited so call today on 208731 or visit www.helenogrady.co.uk

Fiona Taylor



Dramatic expectations: Young Pip is captured by the convict Magwitch in a scene from Dickens' novel

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Fireworks go with a bang!



A gaggle of guys awaits judgment

Picture by Mike Crofts

ANOTHER year, another outstanding fireworks display! A large crowd gathered on the Camping Close on Saturday 8th November to enjoy the pre-show barbecues and refreshments. The guy competition was hotly contested; congratulations go to Julie Dixon for the winning entry. The bonfire was then lit and blazed away.

Shortly after 7pm, the main event started; for more than 20 minutes fireworks fizzed, banged and popped overhead, delighting young and old alike. At the end, a rousing chorus of *Land of Hope and Glory* was accompanied by the exhilarating sounds of rockets exploding in the sky - a truly spectacular finale.

As always, all the profits will be split between the PSAs at the infant and junior schools and the village college. At the time of writing, final totals were not available but we are confident that a substantial sum has been raised thanks to high gate receipts and the generous sponsorship of Camgrain and the Cambridge Building Society. Camgrain in particular has been very supportive this year, increasing the size of its donation and providing the heavy lifting equipment needed to set up the display.

Thanks are due to the volunteers who helped before, during and after the event, and especially to those who came back on Sunday morning to help clear up. Thank you also to everyone who came along and supported this unique family event.

Andrew Clark

Linton welcomes the arrival of Mops hairdressing salon

MOPS is a revolutionary new hair salon due to open in Linton in early December. With a fresh, vibrant, trendy interior, and friendly customer service, Mops promises to provide consistently high customer satisfaction with excellent service.

Mops will offer up to date cutting and colouring treatments and an extensive product line to women, men and children.

Salon owner Jo Denny has worked in the area for several years now. Jo brings a fresh professionalism to the area, having recently trained with some of the best names in the business including Paul Merritt, Sean Dawson and Simon Shaw. Jo's wealth of experience and friendly nature will provide total customer satisfaction.

Mops will be located just off Linton High Street, behind North's Bakery. An introductory 10% discount will be available to all clients throughout December. Please bring along the Mops advert below to qualify.

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The Anderson trust needs

applicants

THE trustees of the Charles and Mary Anderson benefaction would be pleased to receive applications for grants from the benefaction for distribution in 2009. The aims of the charity are as follows:

To support the work of St Mary's church;

To promote education and other charitable purposes "for the benefit of those living in or resorting to Linton".

In 2008, 15 grants were made ranging in value from £85 to £4000 for a diverse set of activities including particular support for the young and the elderly.

Please contact David Parry-Smith, chairman of the trustees, on 894715 for further information. If you represent a group, you will need to include your most up to date financial statement when you apply.

The deadline for receipt of applications at The Copse, 25A Back Road, Linton CB21 4LG (note address change) is Thursday 12th February 2009. Email applications to Anderson@parry-smith.co.uk

The Trustees will be meeting in early March 2009 and will let all applicants know the outcome shortly after the meeting.

David Parry-Smith
894715

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LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

Illustrated by Maureen Williams



Where have all the bats gone?

THE wintry crispy leaves are tinkling their way down the High Street signalling a time of hibernation for many creatures, but where on earth do they all go for this seasonal sleep? Well, firstly we'll try to understand why some of our most loved wildlife hibernates.

Having thought long and hard into my own slumber, I awoke with an answer. You see, it's not so much a need for rest, as a reaction to the season itself. Not even a response to cold weather, but the effects of changing circumstances such as the availability of food. So, burning valuable calories, hunting when there is nothing to hunt would reduce your chances of survival; better to stay wrapped up, warm and dry if that's your bag, until your favourite grub emerges.

Having said that, it does seem warmer weather is nature's alarm clock. Many bats appear to hibernate towards late autumn as butterflies and moths and other flying insects vanish, while many birds migrate to where food is more plentiful.

So what does happen to those wingless wonders such as toads and frogs? Where are they now? During exceptionally cold days they too hibernate, usually after migrating overland in wet weather to a deep water or muddy site where they hide

under rotting leaves and logs. Amazingly, most frogs can survive freezing temperatures due to a molecular mechanical process known as nucleating. In short, most of the water in the frog's cells is replaced by glucose. Unfortunately, this natural process is not yet available to humans although I hope it is before the next ice age. However, these chaps and other



cold-blooded beasts actually aestivate, closing down into a trance-like state until suitable conditions return, which is why you may unearth while gardening a fine old toad in the middle of a very dry summer; it was simply aestivating.

Now, I would like to correct my junior school form teacher who taught that squirrels gathered a pantry full of nuts then hibernated throughout the whole of winter. Wrong!!! Squirrel diet is rarely in short supply and my observations tell me they infrequently hibernate. They may like me stay in and nap during exceptionally harsh weather, but I have watched one

pair active throughout an entire two-year period. It seems that different species respond in a variety of ways to seasonal or environmental change. As in vampire mythology 'torpor' is the word used to describe a state of greatly reduced activity, marked usually by a reduction in the metabolic rate and temperature. Ladybirds too come into our homes to stay over winter but unfortunately most modern houses are too dry, causing the little creatures to dehydrate, never waking from their slumber.

On 8th November a great time was had by all at the village firework display, and what a spectacular show it was! However, I can't help thinking that these displays of percussive fireworks are simply gratuitous. The untold detrimental effect on wildlife grieves me for the sake of a few supposedly exciting loud bangs.

The millions of traumatised creatures, everything from grasshoppers to hedgehogs and disorientated birds, let alone our cats and dogs, pay a high price for our few moments of fun. Perhaps next year the organisers will take on board my words and curtail the booms for an increased colourful and creative display.

Merry Christmas all. Don't forget to feed the hoggies!

Farewell, Colin Edward Hems 1935-2008

It was as if we were all stars in the final scene of one of those beautiful, old, romantic films. The sun shone fleetingly, with a cool breeze shuffling the first of the many coloured autumn leaves along the way. It seemed a fitting day to say farewell to a brilliant man who knew, and would express, the extremes of human emotion. After a reflective, personalised ceremony led by Josephine Leggo at the family home in the High Street, a great procession began.

To the beat of the band playing Colin's favourite tunes, we walked to the cemetery with tears and brave smiles for the loss of an inimitable character. All were thoughtful and everyone special for Colin made us feel that way in life. His great stories of gut-wrenching hilarity or wild imaginings kept all who knew him amused or even bemused at times. He said it as he saw it, profound and witty with a hint of irony and peppered embellishment, and his funeral service was no different.

We shared moments of silence then song as we said our goodbyes to one of Linton's unforgettable

lovely men. In a moment of magic, a white dove of peace was released; it seemed to draw a great C in the sky, then disappeared. We returned to the house and celebrated this great life with recollections, music and dance as he would have wished.

Colin was a man of many talents; too many to mention, but inventor, engineer, artist and storyteller come to mind. We shared a love of nature, strange stories and vintage cars - our double trip around the village in the little green Morris 8 earlier this year meant the world to me.

Colin's observations and pertinent questions inspired subjects in The Linton Country Diary. Memorably, the one about drunken birds who had gorged on fermented apples in his garden, and recently the subject of red leaves of autumn, but most importantly he was and always will remain, a very dear friend.

Normally, the LN does not publish obituaries, but as Colin supplied inspiration to Darryl's country diary we are making an exception.

Editor

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The Derbyshire Post

I'M sure that you all heard the news that Tom Minnock, a teacher for 18 years at Linton village college, was presented with the National Teaching Award for Enterprise at the end of last month. What you may not know about is how much fun we had at the college in the days leading up to the television show.

The BBC spent a day with us some weeks before the show. They filmed students throughout the school day, filmed a lesson given by Tom for more than two hours and interviewed Tom's colleagues and current students. This long day of filming was edited down to the bare minute that was shown at the awards. Blink and you'd miss it. However, five days before the televised show at the London Palladium, I received a phone call. Normally, Elaine, my P.A., will give me an idea of what a call is about before I pick it up, but on this occasion she was told that it was 'Amanda from the BBC' and that they would only speak to me.

"Hello," I said.
"Is there anyone there with you?" she asked. "If so, ask them to leave."

I knew something interesting was happening from this strange request, so I dismissed the colleagues I was meeting and the call continued:

"I am phoning to tell you that Tom has won the National Teaching Award for Enterprise and that Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, is coming to your school on Friday to present him with the Plato trophy."

"Crikey."
"Yes, and you'll need to organise an assembly in which this is going to happen and I need you to tell nobody. It must be a surprise for staff, students and particularly for Tom. We will be filming the reactions of all concerned. We want surprise on their faces."

"Crikey."
So that was that. I don't think I have ever told as many lies in my life as I had to in the next 48 hours.

We decided to concoct the story that the BBC had not managed to get adequate footage of Tom talking to children during their last visit, so that we needed to stage a Year 10 and 11 assembly. During the assembly he would give a talk about the credit crunch and thus the BBC would get the footage they required for the show.

Tom seemed to accept this version of events, so we put our plan into action. If I could get him talking to the students by 8.45 am, with the cameras on him, it would be poised perfectly for Ed Balls' surprise entrance. Mr Balls was en route to his constituency and he could only be in College between 8.45 and 9.15 am. When he arrived he would be hidden in the Pegasus Room at the entrance until the sound crew felt the moment was right, then I would interrupt Tom as Mr Balls appeared through the doors at the back of the hall.

The biggest flaw in the plan was that I couldn't be sure the students would know who Ed Balls was when I announced his entrance, so at the beginning of the assembly I fed in a few lines about the abolition of the Year 9 SATs by a Mr Ed Balls. The trap was set, so to speak, and it worked like a dream. Ed Balls walked into the assembly right on cue, carrying the golden trophy with him.

Tom was clearly overwhelmed, the students were elated and it was a moment that those of us lucky enough to be there will never forget.

To cap it all, the parting line of the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families was "What a lovely school. What great kids you've got here."

Caroline Derbyshire
Principal

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The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

Living in daily fear of the dreaded military telegram ...

IN 1918, the population of Linton was around 1,500 people and there were more than 250 Linton men serving in the armed forces, a very high percentage of the eligible male population. Fatal casualties in the last year of the Great War in 1918 were much higher than most people realise and accounted for about a quarter of all those who died. In Linton, the figure was around 20% of the war dead. The local populace was exhausted and subject to a never-ending list of casualties, as well as the daily fear of the dreaded military telegram delivered from Mrs Moore's post office in the High Street.

It seemed the carnage was never going to end. However, there was a new belief in the possibility of an allied victory in 1918 after the failure of the German spring offensive in northern France. For the first time in four years families dared to look forward to their loved ones returning, and attempted to block out any possibility that they might die in the last months of the conflict. Losses in the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns probably make us more aware of the personal tragedy war brings to anxious families waiting at home.

Tragic stories of two families serve to demonstrate the impact of the Great War in a small village like Linton. On 22nd March 1918, the Nunn family of 100 High Street received a telegram saying their 22-year-old son, Alexander serving in the Machine Gun Corps was reported by his unit as missing. His parents then spent an agonising six weeks before they received any further news. Alexander had previously been wounded in the thigh in August 1916 and had spent 12 months recuperating at home in Linton before returning to the front in October of the following



Unveiling the memorial on 18th March 1921 by Col Joseph Griffiths

Picture courtesy the Cambridge Collection.

year. His 22-year-old brother William had been killed in action in France early in 1917, only six months before Alexander returned to the front line.

The period of waiting for news ended on 3rd May when a letter arrived from Germany. Alexander was alive and was a POW at Kassel.

He related how he had been wounded in the right shoulder, the right forearm and the left foot. He described the camp "as decent, and he had a light airy room and the food was not bad." For the Nunn family there was a happy ending.

The Cottage family of Springfield Cottage in Horn Lane had four sons serving in the armed forces. The telegram boy knocked on their door in mid-September 1918. Their youngest son, Sgt Edward Cottage, 24, was reported as having

died from wounds he sustained in fighting near Amiens on 24th August.

Earlier on in the war, Edward had been wounded in the foot on the first day of the battle of the Somme and had spent six months recuperating at home before his anxious family said

their goodbyes on his return to the front in January 1917. Charles and Emma Cottage no sooner absorbed the devastating news of Edward's death when, three weeks later, they were told that another son, Frederick, had been severely wounded on 30th August. Frederick had already been wounded twice at the Somme in 1916 but fortunately he survived his latest injuries.

Losing your loved ones is always tragic but to lose them a few months before the end of a war must be especially devastating. The names of William Nunn and Edward Cottage are engraved on the Linton War Memorial.

Adult education in the new year

SAWSTON village college will shortly be coming to the end of this term's classes. Many will be continuing or starting again next term, during the week commencing 12th January, 2009.

Now is the time to think about 'me time'. If you're feeling energetic places are still available at tap dance, ballroom dance, Pilates and keep fit classes, or perhaps you'd rather do something less strenuous but just as satisfying like an art class, Tai Chi, dressmaking, Indian cookery, digital photography, Indian head massage, interior design or flower arranging.

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THE LINTON NEWS

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Parish Council Matters

Clubbing in Linton

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

BY the time you read this, Christmas will be looming with its prospects of more food and drink than are strictly necessary but with the comforting thought that it's only once a year and we can soon diet or exercise the excess away in the spring!

One of the best forms of exercise is walking of course and my wife and I with two friends managed a walk along the middle part of Hadrian's Wall last September – fantastic views over the Northumberland and Cumbrian countryside and the summer rain held off until the last day. Not everyone's cup of tea perhaps but even a stroll up the village High Street makes you feel more alive and there are plenty of longer walks on well defined footpaths all round the village and further afield to Hadstock, Horseheath, Balsham or the Pear Tree at Hildersham.

The parish council keeps an eye on the public footpaths and, with the co-operation of our local landowners, ensures they are usable all year round. Although we don't have a specific rambler's or walkers' group based in the village, walks will hopefully be organised on Boxing day starting from the church and led by Andrew Gore – just the thing to work up an appetite for the cold cuts and Christmas cake. (Bit of guesswork here - I'm writing this in October!)

Even if we don't have organised walkers, we are still very lucky with all sorts of other clubs and societies in Linton. Some based on physical activities but many others on such diverse subjects as computing, photography, local history, music, chess and radio controlled car racing. The churches are also home to a number of associations including the Mothers Union, bell-ringers and youth groups covering all ages from tots to sixth formers.

The Linton music society is probably the oldest group in the village, this year celebrating its 50th anniversary. The society welcomes the Cambridge Taverner choir to St Mary's church on Saturday 13 December for a performance of Britten's ceremony of carols, a collection of expressive medieval carols accompanied by the harp. In addition, the choir will perform some of the best-loved British carols of the twentieth century. The Cambridge Taverner choir has built a fine reputation for powerful and expressive performances but perhaps we would not have the opportunity to hear them but for the music society.

One of the other long established groups is the Linton historical society, which under Garth Collard's leadership, has established a village archive of photos and reminiscences and produced the 'Linton in photographs' book distributed to every house in the village last year.

The IT club was formed more recently with the objective of introducing basic computing to adults, particularly those who have not had the opportunity to learn about computers at school, college or work. It already boasts more than a hundred members – although not all attend every meeting! The club also tries to help members with computer and computer-related problems such as digital cameras. It is also a meeting place for those interested in computers and new technology but also ready to help others. Members have the use of the club's computers and also those belonging to the library service when they meet every Tuesday evening at the Cathodeon centre. One of the club's leading lights is Jim Cracknell – no, not the olympic oarsman – who uses his computer skills to enhance his photographs.

Needless to say, Jim is also a member of the Linton camera club, set-up in December 2001 to provide an opportunity for photographers both novice and experienced to enjoy their creative endeavours. Starting with only half a dozen enthusiasts, the club has grown to a membership of over 40, with ages ranging from early twenties to 70 plus. They meet on the first Monday of the month in the Cathodeon centre - where they have a permanently installed digital projection screen - and sally forth on away-days

to venues such as Burghley horse trials, heavy horse and steam rallies, Duxford Imperial war museum and various locations in Cambridgeshire and the surrounding counties to take interesting photos.

The club has recently held its fourth annual photo exhibition in the village hall and also put on a display in the church pavilion of floral photographs during the flower festival. Members also donated images for Alan Clarkson's Linton village calendar for 2009 that should make a great stocking filler. Club members are often asked to take pictures for the Linton News – see if you can spot some in this month's edition!

Linton radio race car club does what it says on the tin – races radio controlled cars! The club meets every Wednesday evening in the village hall to race 1/10th scale stock electric touring cars on a custom-built carpet track. The aim of the club is to provide racing that is both fun and competitive but more importantly allows enthusiasts to swap ideas and to learn from one another. The club attracts members from various age groups but the skills needed to keep a fast moving car on the track obviously favour the younger members – Lewis Hamilton started at six-years-old and has a Blue Peter badge to prove it!

The gardening club is another long established group where members learn, discuss and enjoy all aspects of gardening. They hold a plant sale in May and an annual show in July/August. The club meets in the evening of the second Tuesday of the month in the village hall.

For the more sedentary there is a bridge club, a Scrabble club and a reading group that meets in the Dog & Duck. There is also a branch of the women's wnstitute, the friends of St Mary's who help to raise funds for the upkeep of the church building, the VIP group helping the visually impaired with talking books and the helping hands volunteers who provide transport for the elderly and house bound. ACE (activities and care for the elderly) plays a part in the village with a committee of volunteers giving help and support to the elderly by means of coach trips, garden parties and lunches with a speaker to keep older people in contact with each other and helping them remain part of village life.

Sadly, the young people in the village no longer have the youth club building in the village college but are provided with a couple of meeting places after school, the Drop-In centre on the recreation ground run by Linton action for youth – the familiar LA4Y - and the mocha house café run by youngsters for youngsters in the pavilion behind St Mary's church.

The mocha house café is run after school Wednesdays and Thursdays and is a great place for young people in secondary school and sixth form to have a nice coffee and chill out with friends. The youngsters are proud that all the products they sell are Fair Trade, and all the cleaning products they use are eco-friendly.

Besides the café, Hannah Burton co-ordinates many other youth activities based at the parish church; naturally, some of the activities are focused on the Christian faith, but there are certainly no restrictions and anyone may join in. The Xplore group meets twice a month and bridges the gap between junior church and the main church service. The play games, learn about church, God and the bible and create a style of church that welcomes young people. Every third Thursday the group has a bible study evening.

Hannah also runs social events; they went bowling in November and look forward to more film nights and pizza evenings in the future as well as a weekend away. This month, after last year's huge success, they are looking forward to hosting their second annual Christmas lunch for elderly members of the community.

Linton free church - the United Reform church –runs a number of youth activities catering from tots to teenagers. The older

children are part of the Impact group that meets twice a week under the co-ordination of youth worker, Louise Rose, who heads a hardy bunch of leaders and helpers.

Last year the Linton churches together youth project took 26 young people away to Soul Survivor, a Christian youth camp held in Somerset and attended by about 12,000 young people. The aim was bible study but in the evenings a wide variety of social events were available including several cafes, dancing the night away at Mr Boogies nightclub and watching Christian bands in the gigs area.

It would be remiss of me to fail to mention the many other youth groups in the village including the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and the Air Training Corps – perhaps a second article will enable me to expand on their activities.

I started this article by talking about exercise to keep us in trim after the excesses of Christmas but have not mentioned the many sporting activities that go on in the village throughout the year: the two football clubs - Aztecs junior and Linton Granta - the junior cricket club, the two men's keep fit clubs – Monday nights are the best but I'm biased – the ladies badminton, the Linton Granta badminton and the bowls club with its roll-ups every Wednesday in the season.

It is amazing that a community the size of Linton can be home to so many clubs and societies all of which seem to be thriving. If you want more information, why not go along to one of the regular meetings – they are listed in the diary section – or contact them through their website or at www.linton.info

If your club or society has not been mentioned, my apologies but is it because you are hiding your light under the proverbial bushel? Do you have a website, or, if not, is your contact information listed on the Linton website? Do you have a diary entry in the News? How about a new year resolution to let us know all about you?

Finally, Happy Christmas and an enjoyable New Year to everyone with my special thanks to all those who took the time to tell me about their club.

Cllr T Krarup

Allotments Update

SOME residents may be thinking that the parish council has forgotten its search for allotments or perhaps put it on a back burner. Can we assure you this is not the case, although other villages seem to be having more success finding suitable sites we are still searching. Since the first meeting with residents, initial advice from South Cambridgeshire District Council meant that we had to formalise all requests so that there was written evidence of 'need' - to date we have received 47 formal requests.

Following our letter to local landowners last year, a meeting was arranged with one farming family who had some interesting proposals but these were linked to development which is controlled by the district council so this matter was passed to them and initial indications are that this matter would not be progressed.

In late October we sent a further letter to SCDC advising them of the current situation and requesting the exact procedure that they now wish us to follow to ensure that Linton PC meets its obligations for the provision of allotments. As soon as we have received this advice we will update you. It seems remarkable that a village surrounded by fields cannot find a few acres for allotments, so can we take this opportunity to make another plea to local landowners to consider the parish council's request for any available land to lease or purchase for the provision of allotments.

Allotments working party

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Councilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutescouncilminutes

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the parish council held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 2nd October.

Present: A Gore (chair), Ms E Cornell (vice chair), Mrs E Bald, Dr B Cox, B Hammett, R Hickford, T Krarup, J Linsdell, G Potter, Dr J Rossiter and Mrs S Parry (clerk to the council). Mrs K France (press) was in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Daly, Gee and Urwin.

Cllr Hickford declared a personal interest under recreation ground car park working group.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September: Cllr Bald said that despite the placing of straw bales at the entrance to the Camgrain site, the noise had been bad for several successive nights and that her own meter readings had recorded noise levels well above those permitted by Camgrain's planning permission. It was agreed to write to the environmental health officer requesting details of noise levels recorded by his department to date.

Mr Westlake's quotation for the drainage work at the Meadow Lane gate had been accepted, but he had decided that the work was too specialised for him to undertake. Therefore CCC highways department had been asked to recommend contractors and possibly obtain quotes on the parish council's behalf following the completion of the drainage work in Stanton's Lane.

Reports from co-ordinators: Open spaces: Cllr Bald reported that the bushes on the open grass area at the entrance to Palmers Close were very overgrown. SCDC to be asked to trim them.

Recreation ground: Cllr Hickford requested that a reminder be sent to Herald to finish cutting the hedge in Stantons Lane.

Rights of way: Cllr Rossiter reported that a tyre track had been cut on footpath 22 and work on footpath 25 was progressing well.

Venture playground: Cllr Hammett reported that the tyre swing was back in action and boarding on the skate ramp had been secured.

Leadwell meadows: Cllr Rossiter reported that she had sought further advice from Mr Mungovan, the ecology officer at SCDC, who recommended that all grass be raked up to minimise harm and that the best solution to the maintenance of the meadows would be to graze animals there. Cllr Rossiter requested that councillors with views as to what should be done, to contact her with a view to the revision of the maintenance programme.

Churchyard: Cllr Cox reported that there had been fewer problems with youths since the fitting of the security light.

Recreation ground car park: Cllr Gore had circulated a report of the working group meeting which recommended various steps be taken to try and control parking problems on the recreation ground to avoid the need for a car park. Cllr Bald proposed that the report's recommendations be accepted, subject to further investigation of the replacement of the Meadow Lane gate. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Rossiter and agreed by the meeting. Proposal carried.

Traffic: Cllr Gore had circulated a report of the working group meeting, who had recommended that the council should establish a budget for minor traffic schemes, including allowing residents to contribute towards their cost, and adopt a process for assessing and implementing them as proposed in the report; re-submit the bids for works to improve local access for people with disabilities (as updated by Cllr Bald) and for improvements to the Balsham Road/High Street junction, previously submitted for 2008-9, to CCC minor improvements programme for 2009-10; obtain advice from the county council about measures to reduce speed on Horseheath Road and information from Hadstock PC about the effect of the new signage in their village on speed; subject to a forthcoming police meeting confirming the usefulness of the speedwatch scheme, invite other nearby parish councils to a joint meeting to consider the joint purchase of a speed set; Cllr Bald proposed that that the recommendations be adopted, on the basis that the minor traffic schemes list be considered at least twice yearly by the council, and that the council should have the power to remove a scheme from the list. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Krarup and agreed by the meeting. Proposal carried.

Consideration of expenditure for youth projects: A quotation had been received from the original supplier for the suggested adaptation of the youth shelter of £2,313 plus approximately £300 for installation by a local contractor; a quotation had been received from P&C (Electrical) to repair the light over the skate ramp and to fit a new light for the tarmac area; the cost of two picnic benches and one long bench on Camping Close would be approximately £800. Malcolm Coxall had offered to make benches with help from the young people in the new year; the cost of two anti-vandal, ground fixed goal posts on Camping Close would be approximately £730. It was agreed that Cllr Gore should try to obtain a picture showing the proposed changes to the shelter for circulation to councillors and that a second quote be sought for the lighting works.

Cllr Hickford reported that work on Camping Close would be subject to approval by the county council as landowners. He was investigating dual use of the land. Cllr Gore raised the possibility that the land could be registered as a village green.

Cllr Bald proposed that the work on the youth shelter should proceed, subject to approval by the youth group. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Krarup and agreed by the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

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

Office hours : Monday 9am–12noon, and 4–5.30pm, Tuesday–Friday 9am– 12noon

Or by appointment

Dates for full council meetings:

4th December 2008, 8th and 22nd January 2009

All meetings held at the Cathodeon Centre following the public forum commencing at 8pm

ABBREVIATED minutes of the meeting of the PC held at the Cathodeon centre on Thursday 16th October.

Present: A Gore (chair), Ms E Cornell (vice chair), Mrs E Bald, S Daly, B Hammett, R Hickford, T Krarup, 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 Cox and Gee.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October: Cllr Potter queried some of the points in the recent car park working party report. It was agreed that the chairman would consider with Cllr Potter the issues he had raised.

Report from police and consideration of policing, safety and security issues: It was agreed that the public should be consulted before the PC made any decision about involvement in the speedwatch programme, and that any such involvement should be community-led. It was agreed that Cllr Gore would write an article for the Linton News to solicit residents' views. A report from Cllr Gore, police liaison representative, regarding the recent Linton neighbourhood panel meeting had been circulated. Cllr Bald expressed concern regarding the recent crime figures for Linton and the increase in burglaries particularly against the elderly.

Consideration of expenditure for youth projects: A meeting had taken place on 13th October with the youth group at LVC who were concerned that the proposed adaptations to the youth shelter would not address the problems of uncomfortable seating and protection from the rain. Cllr Gore was awaiting a response from the manufacturers to see if these problems could be resolved. Cllr Hickford reported that a meeting was due to take place on 17th October with the county council and the infants school to discuss dual use of Camping Close. He distributed details of possible

picnic benches for Camping Close and asked councillors to submit other sources of benches and ideas to the clerk. It was possible that a customised bench to provide wheelchair access could be made by the youth group with help from Malcolm Coxall.

Report from the county councillor: A resident had requested that the steps in Rivey Lane be refurbished. It had been established that SCDC owned the land in question and in Cllr Batchelor's view was therefore liable. Overgrown vegetation in a stretch of Rivey Lane was the responsibility of the county council who would be asked to arrange for its clearance. The budget for highways maintenance had been frozen and only planned work, including the resurfacing of Emson's Close and the patching of Back Road to Hildersham, and emergency repairs would take place until April 2009. All unofficial signs, but not shrines, were being removed from the A1307 verges for health and safety reasons. The stopping up order adjacent to the Co-op in Green Lane was to be advertised. He was advised by councillors that the 'give way' sign in Symond's Lane was covered by vegetation and the 'Rivey Way leading to Rivey Close' sign was on the wrong side of the road.

Reports from the district councillors: Cllr Bear reported that she arranged for the planning department to investigate a conservatory erected in Palmers Close. They had found that it constituted permitted development, so that planning permission was not required. Cllr Batchelor reported that due to the credit crunch the district council would not meet its target for new housing and had been requested by the government to find further sites to fill the resulting shortfall of 2,200 homes. He agreed to investigate the delay in the processing of planning applications.

Cllr Hickford thanked Cllr Batchelor for submitting the current accounts for Linton Action for Youth.

Written reports from council representatives: A report from the planning committee regarding a minor amendment to planning application S/1457/08/F had been circulated, proposing that no recommendation should be made to the district council. This was agreed. Cllr Rossiter, Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Association of local councils representative, had circulated a report which was considered.

Flaxfields: A report had been circulated of the meeting of Cllrs Cornell, Gore and Linsdell and the clerk with Sanctuary Housing and SDC, the main contractors for the Flaxfields extra care development. Cllr Bald stated that residents were concerned that the footpath to Symond's Lane would be closed for three months and that the contractors had been calling on residents advising that their fences would be removed. It was agreed to advise Sanctuary Housing that agreement must be obtained in writing before any fences could be removed. The council agreed to accept the reports recommendations, namely that the council reluctantly accept that the path between Flaxfields and Symond's Lane be closed temporarily to allow construction works to proceed, subject to the following conditions: A strict time limit of 13 weeks to be placed on the closure; adequate and well placed signs warning of the diversion to be erected in advance of the closure; if works were required to make the diversionary route through Crabtree Croft safe, those works to be carried out by SDC before the temporary diversion was introduced; at least a weekly taxi service to village destinations be provided for elderly residents of Flaxfields or its immediate vicinity.

Correspondence received and for discussion: Mrs S Anderson, tree warden, regarding the planting of available trees. Councillors with views of where they might be planted were requested to contact Mrs Anderson.

Linton Granta bowls club, request for repairs to be carried out. It was agreed that funding for repairs could not come from the carpet fund budget and that a further two quotations be obtained.

D Champion, regarding road safety issues. It was agreed to forward the letter to David Lines, highways engineer at the county council, for consideration.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

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

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