

Meet the team...

THIS month, in our look at how the Linton News is produced, we will be investigating the technical and financial aspects of the operation.

The Linton News is written and laid out on AppleMac computers and the guiding light is Graham Potter, who has been with the paper since the second issue back in 1987.

"I answered an appeal in the first issue asking for technical help from anyone with a knowledge of and interest in computers and I've been doing the job ever since," he says.

Graham's work starts when he is given details of an issue's adverts from our advertising manager. He then transfers the



Technical: Graham Potter ads to a blank on-screen version of the LN that is passed to the editor and her sub-editing team who put the paper together.

Then it's back to Graham who prints the pages for our

proof-readers to spot the mistakes. When that stage is finished Graham does a final check and polish before adding the two yellow pages at the end produced by the parish council.

The whole process takes about two weeks and when the finished version is with the printer, Graham puts all the stories electronically on our website (the position of Linton News website manager is vacant at the moment and any help would be appreciated) and also to the Granta Grapevine talking newspaper.

"I really enjoy working for the News," Graham says. "It's an important way to tell the

villagers what's going on. And people seem to appreciate what you're doing. I've had complete strangers stop me in the street and thank me for the Linton News."

Controlling the Linton News' purse-strings is Norman Dann, only the second financial supremo in 18 years.

He took over some eight years ago from the late Ron Amsden, one of the Linton News's founders, after joining the paper a few years earlier as a proof reader.

"I had some spare time," Norman says, "and I wanted something useful to do. Being treasurer is not a very onerous job. The main task is keeping



Financial: Norman Dann an eye on the cash flow, paying the bills and preparing the annual accounts.

"All our income comes from advertisements and we use that cash to pay our bills, which are mainly for printing

and keeping the computer equipment up-to-date.

"Surplus cash goes to village causes, such as trees in the recreation ground or books for the library."

As well as keeping an eye on the Linton News's cash, Norman helps Graham with the ads for the paper, and also does one of the monthly distribution rounds.

Norman also edited the last Linton Directory.

Later this year, he will be assisting local historian Garth Collard with the future publication of a book about the history of Linton in pictures, for which we have just been given a Lottery grant.

How we are failing older people ... all for the want of £54,000

VULNERABLE older people in Cambridge and the surrounding villages are set to lose their Parsons Court access centre – and all for the want of £54,000.

Parsons Court, in Cambridge, is due to close at the end of March and the plan was to replace it with a new centre where older people can drop in for a chat and information, refreshments, computer access, and, most importantly, social contact.

Cambridgeshire county council, Cambridge city council and Cambridge City and South Cambs primary care trust were asked to find £18,000 each towards the setting-up costs.

The two councils have still

to decide and the PCT has offered an inadequate one-off sum of £10,000, which has had to be declined because it will not cover costs.

Gloria Culyer, of Age Concern Cambridgeshire, which manages the access centre, said: "The situation is not good, although the long-term prospects are not totally bleak."

The proposed new centre, although larger than Parsons Court, would still be modest in the context of a city such as Cambridge, but it would make a major contribution to improving the quality of life of older people.

But because the councils and the trust are having trouble finding the money, Parsons Court will close next month

and no new centre will be developed in Cambridge.

What this means is that a number of older people will be left isolated and lonely, and the opportunity to improve the quality of life of many more will have been missed.

This short-sightedness is likely to cost the statutory agencies much more than £18,000 each since it is they who will have to meet the costs as people's mental and physical health deteriorates because of their isolation and inactivity.

It is also a serious condemnation of a modern and vibrant city such as Cambridge that it is unable to find £54,000 a year to meet the needs of older people.

The Older People Reference

Group, which has been working with Age Concern to safeguard the centre, is disappointed and angry that resources for this development have not been secured.

It is particularly aggrieved that the views of older people have not made a difference to the statutory agencies.

One such view expressed by older people was: "Without the ... centre many lonely old folk will have no human contact, no chance to talk to others, will become even more lonely, their health will suffer and they [will] become a drain on the health service. Cannot the powers that be see this, or are they totally blind to the needs of older folk? What a dreadful outlook for this city of ours." LNT

Family history is fun

A FAMILY and local history weekend is being organised by the BBC to cash in on the tremendous interest shown in the TV programme *Who Do You Think You Are?*

The first series attracted large audiences and the second series has just started, so to coincide with this, the BBC is arranging a special Families and Local History event over the weekend of 11th and 12th February.

Locally, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and some of the county's leading experts are holding a Family History Roadshow at the Cresset Centre in Peterborough on Saturday 11th February. Watch out

for further details. Then the following weekend, Saturday 18th February, to help you put what you saw into practice, the Cambridgeshire Local History Society is hosting a workshop.

Local experts will answer questions on preparing and presenting your local and family history projects during an event entitled *Getting Into Local History*.

In March, there will be two spring conferences – the Cambridge Antiquarian Society on Saturday 11th and the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust on Saturday 18th.

For details, call 892430 or email - c.l.h.s@btinternet.com Andrew Westwood-Bate

Cinders' fur slippers ...

DID you know that Cinderella's glass slippers were not glass at all? Had you been at the January meeting of the Linton and District Historical Society, you would have heard that the mix-up was all to do with the fascinating world of heraldry.

Heraldry was the subject of a talk by long-time Linton resident David Broomfield, who revealed the shocking news that Cinderella's slippers were made of plain squirrel fur.

Apparently, it was all down to an early scribe, who mistook the word *vair*, a type of heraldic fur, for the French word *verre*, which, as you probably all know, is French for glass. The

error stuck and Cinderella's glass slippers were created.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st February in Linton village hall when Chris Jakes will take us on a slide show tour round Cambridgeshire with the help of his old photographs.

Andrew Westwood-Bate

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Calling all railway fans
A RAILWAY enthusiast group is looking for new members at its regular meetings held in the Pear Tree pub in Hildersham.
Publicity officer Mark Neilson says: "We are an umbrella group supporting a world acclaimed narrow gauge railway being restored in North Wales called the Welsh Highland Railway."
"Meetings begin on 15th February with a talk by the author and narrow gauge rail expert Peter Johnson. The meeting starts at 8pm and will finish about 9.45."
For more details, please call: me on 894058 or email markneilson@btinternet.com Mark Neilson

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Time for a little catnap

LINTON Zoo has a new baby ... and over Christmas and New Year, visitors were able to watch the progress and development of Safina, our African lion cub.

It doesn't seem so long ago that we were announcing the arrival of Riziki and Karla as cubs from Woburn Safari Park, and on 30th November, the young pair became proud parents of Safina. Unfortunately, the inexperience of Riziki and Karla meant that we had to remove the little cub for hand-rearing to ensure she survived.

Safina, Swahili for Beautiful One, weighed around 2.5lb at birth and has been fed from a baby's bottle on a special milk formula successfully used for her parents, and at six weeks of age she has changed from a tiny lifeless cub to a 10lb bundle of mischief. Visitors have been able to watch her progress on a special video monitor in the coffee shop.

The observation monitor has created such interest that we are planning to upgrade from a small black and white to a large colour screen and with more cubs and babies on the way, this will allow visitors to get a good look at an otherwise secret part of the mothers' and babies' lives.

We are hoping that perhaps a security company might like to supply and sponsor the necessary equipment in time for the birth of our next litter of tiger cubs around Easter.

Generally, we had a super breeding season in 2005 with



Just relaxing: Safina takes a break from the tiring business of growing up

Picture by Kim Simmons

many special births and hatchings. These included several lemur species, cotton-top tamarins, baby giant tortoises, various parrots and macaws and Parma wallabies.

Meanwhile, we are still collecting used stamps for our conservation fund-raising projects. Foreign stamps and ones in good condition are preferred but everything is welcome. Please leave them at the gate as you are passing. Thanks for the many anonymous packages we have received.

Also, there is always plenty

of bagged up Zoo Poo (tapir and zebra stable waste) available at the gate for collection - just call in. It is a cheap and brilliant non-peat soil improver and all the money

raised goes into the conservation fund.

If you want 10 bags or more, we can organise delivery in Linton, or if you want to leave us a trailer to fill, that

is no problem to organise either.

This year, we will be continuing our series of weekend and school holiday keeper talks and activities as part of our commitment to environmental education.

The exciting and interactive programme of events and activities is aimed at both adults and children and is also available for pre-booked school visits.

The animals involved are lemurs, tapirs, owls, tigers, and snakes, bugs and little beauties. Visit our website at www.lintonzoo.com for details and times or phone 891308. Always phone on the day of your visit to check your event is taking place.

Last year was a fantastic year for the zoo and we are all now looking forward to the new season.

Lots of new and exciting interactive keeper talks and animal encounters are planned and we hope that visitors and school groups will take advantage of all the extra free facilities available to enhance their visit to Cambridgeshire's premier zoo.

Kim Simmons
891308

Charlotte's Chatroom

Love and laughter for Twelfth Night

LAST December, Linton Village College staged Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

To anyone who has read this play, they will know it's very complicated, and the basic theme is how love affects different individuals. Throughout the play there was a running commentary from Amy Coulden making it far easier to understand.

Although the entire cast was amazing, performances by Nell Corrin, Jack Storey and Tom McCarty stood out particularly.

Costumes, made by Amanda Wells and dyed by Pam Coombes, were impressive as were the set and props. Although the play was long, it didn't seem it as it was very entertaining and I'm sure a few of the cast will have something to do with acting in the future.

A particularly funny scene was when Sir Toby Belch (played by Jack Storey), Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Nick Hess), Olivia (Nell Corrin) and Fabian (Henry Batchelor) are having a duel to the death. However, neither Olivia nor Sir Andrew actually wants to fight, so it's hilarious when they start their battle as no one wants to draw their sword.

It was very comical throughout and Pete Robins did an amazing job producing and directing it.

Charlotte Westdijk

Heartache of a voluntary job

WORKING within the Parole System was Mrs Puskkin Gowlett's talk to the members of January's WI meeting.

This voluntary job was, at times, heartbreaking for

Pusskin. The prisoners were applying for early release on many grounds and the Parole Board had to decide who deserved release and who was ready for release.

Pusskin's job came to an end in the mid-nineties when the composition of the board was changed to only professional people. Members were moved by the passionate stories and the prison system's successes and failures.

Pusskin was thanked by Ann Simpkin.

On a more light-hearted theme, president Trisha Lewis read from a WI county book some of the history of Linton WI which will soon be celebrating 65 years since our second formation.

Next month, the speaker will be Angela Standsall who will be talking about her visit to Uganda.

New members welcome, please contact the secretary Brenda Smith on 890125.

Ann Simpkin 892090
Linton WI

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The Derbyshire Post

THE title pun is not as apt as it was in 'The Bush Telegraph', but it does at least continue the tradition of a personal report from the College principal and I hope you continue to find the column of interest.

January at Linton Village College was a meeting of the past and the future, as is quite appropriate for a new year. After 12 years as headteacher, Clive Bush moved on to take up a post in a large school, William Howard in Cumbria, a new challenge because the school has a sixth form and word on our own 'Bush Telegraph' (emails to Elaine, our P A) suggest that he is enjoying this new dimension very much.

I have now moved in to his office visitors will note that the room has undergone a feminine facelift which is symbolic of the change. More physical changes (great and small) in the College environment will follow in the weeks and months to come.

The welcome that I have received from staff and students has been tremendous. Teenagers often get a very unfair press it strikes me; the young people that I have met at the College are warm, friendly and courteous. Even my gentle reminders about the need to arrive punctually and to wear uniform in a tidy way have been met politely by all.

In academic terms, the college is flourishing last summer our GCSE results were the best ever by every measure you can apply to them, placing the school a close second in the county of the genuinely comprehensive state schools, but when I arrived in school in January we also discovered that last year's Key Stage 3 results also broke records. Overall the school achieved results in English, maths and science which place it in the top 3% of comprehensive schools nationally and, more remarkably, in the top 1% for Science. You cannot better that. This is a really heartening statistic in many respects.

Linton has a great science tradition with its relationship to the development of the cathodeon crystals, but the image of scientists has taken something of a bashing nationally. In a recent survey conducted by the Science Learning Centre in London, 70% of the pupils surveyed viewed scientists as 'really brainy people' but did not want to be one of them. This negative image of scientists may be something that concerns The Royal Society, but as far as Linton Village College is concerned, science is thriving and the students are keen.

Discoveries about academic success have been part of the pleasure of taking over as principal, but I have enjoyed other discoveries too Roger Edwards who creatively tended the college grounds for many years and his son Andrew, who has taken over from him, took the time to provide me with a guided tour of the college grounds. In doing so I discovered the delights of the memorial garden and its Henry Morris monument, the old bowling green, still flat but raised above the surrounding area, and the Sam Alper 'Caring' sculpture that guards the entrance.

I am becoming quite a fan of the 1930s Art Deco building and would love to find the funds to restore it to its former glory, especially now that, with a huge state-of-the-art building project around the rest of the site, it will become a considerable school feature and a terrific living history project.

Caroline Derbyshire

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The Way We Were

by Garth Collard

How Linton grew too large for its cemetery



Linton Cemetry 1905

Photo from Edgar Morley

THE yearly average number of burials in Linton was around 26 and the churchyard was rapidly filling at the end of the 19th century. In 1896 a new piece of land was acquired from the Lord of the Manor alongside the Camping Close, but only the northern part was sanctioned for burials. The southern section was deemed

by the Home Office to be too wet since water levels on the river side were too high. The parish council (PC) hastily searched for a new burial ground and almost purchased five and a half acres of land in Symonds Lane, close to the then police station at present day No 25. The County Council refused this request in 1901

and the PC then purchased three acres of land at the top of Coles Lane in 1903. The land was sold by the Lord of the Manor for £200 and a further £300 was spent on the layout, fencing and drainage.

The new cemetery was dedicated on 26th January, 1905 by the Vicar, the R^{ev} John Longe and the R^{ev} Williamson of the Congregational church. The Home Office had banned further burials in the Horn Lane churchyard in 1899. The first burial took place 26th on April when Robert Kettle of Osnaburgh Villa was laid to rest. During the ceremony one mourner fell from a trap and broke his leg.

The PC employed a caretaker for 4/- per week (20p) and the gravedigger was paid 3/- for a burial, and an extra 1/6d if the corpse was over six feet six inches in height. A

glass covered notice board was erected in 1905 but local children constantly broke the glass. In 1929 M^r Diddell donated a water supply. The grass was kept short by renting out the grazing rights, but this led to frequent complaints about damage caused by livestock; in 1910 cattle damaged the main gates, in 1932 pigs ate the flowers and in 1938 cows destroyed the evergreen trees.

With the huge growth in Linton's population, the cemetery was too small by the 1960s and an extension was completed by 1968. It cost a mere £1375.

The war memorial was dedicated in March, 1921 but the steps to the raised site were only constructed in 1990. I will look at the memorial, the two German war graves and the other British war graves in my next article.

LINTON COUNTRY DIARY by Darryl Nantais

A Robin redbreast in a cage Illustrated by Maureen Williams

FOR a few brief hours our snow-sprinkled and delectable village resembled a giant gâteau dusted with icing sugar. In the morning a couple of grey squirrels rummaged around in large discarded tomato plant pots for several minutes. Finally, they unearthed the seasonal gifts of walnuts I'd placed upon the garden table the previous day. Whilst I wallowed in the joy of observing their antics, one of the stars of December hopped, dashing in his regalia along the garden fence to steal the show. In fact steal they will, a juicy worm right from the jaws of the blind, or at least a mole, yet their reputation remains whiter than white!

They are small, smart, chirpy and both the male and female wear feathery red bibs. Shrouded in miles of mystery and legend across the world. Photographed, filmed and painted perhaps more than any other bird, and a resident of Linton. They are of course the Robins.

They have inspired writers for centuries, but if you have ever wondered why they appear so often upon Christmas cards you'd be forgiven for thinking it's because of their seasonal colour contrast or photogenic qualities. Legend has it *Eriothacus Rubecula*, commonly known as the robin, injured itself whilst attempting to remove the thorns from the head of Jesus at the crucifixion and thus spilled blood onto his breast. Perhaps it is why William Blake wrote in his 'Auguries of Innocence' "A Robin Redbreast in a cage, puts all of heaven in a rage". By the way, the poem begins "To see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wild flower".



Nautical stories abound when it comes to our dear little Rob'. Sailors around the world have believed that killing a robin curses the murderous hand which is then left shaking forever! Others say cats will rarely chase or catch a robin knowing full well it is the bird taking water to those in burning hell! The stories attributed to the powers of this delightful friend of the gardener seems inexhaustible. For instance, if you spot a robin then quickly make a wish before the bird flies away, or take heed when the robin flitters low down in the bush, signifying rain not far away. Fine weather is apparently imminent when they sing from the highest branch.

Gardeners will recognise the same robin returning year after year noting their ingenuity when it comes to building a nest.

A discarded coffee pot, watering can or jacket sleeve in the potting shed will do nicely. I can even recall finding one wedged against an old tractor's radiator. So despite its charming appearance and impeccable record the jolly little redbreast remains an enigma. Unremittingly territorial I have observed their wars for but a metre of wall. That wall however was only the battleground, the real prize was for the whole garden. Fighting to exhaustion and near death leaving the yellow bricks splattered and stained in their blood. Aye! Perhaps not so kindly nor benevolent as legend suggests, but then like creatures all over the world, self sacrificing when it comes to the survival of their own species. And why are they seen so often perched upon headstones? Food for thought next time you see that little model redbreasted darling sunk into the icing on the Christmas cake.



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THE LINTON NEWS
Next Publication Date 6th March 2006
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Parish Council Matters

TURN OFF? OR TAKE OVER?

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

EVERYONE knows by now that the District Council has been 'capped' by Whitehall. You may also have read in the local press that it has said it

office costs as well. Already one of the lowest staffed in the country for its size, it is looking to cut its staff by up to 20%. The County Council is also

particular service. It ought to get £100,000 (80%) from the government, leaving it to find £25,000 (20%) from its own resources. But suppose the government pays 10% less than in all fairness it should- i.e. only £90,000. That means the council tax needs to go up by 40% to make up the shortfall and ensure there is £125,000 in the pot.

Historically our County and District Councils have been low spending councils, compared to most councils in the area. So when, back in the 1980's, the government grant became the main source of local government finance, Whitehall said, in effect, "You don't spend much money now, so you won't need much grant from us in the future."

This may have been fair over twenty years ago, but the face of Cambridgeshire has changed since then. No longer a sleepy county, it has seen massive change, a great deal of development, and costs have gone up. In many ways, the County, especially our part of it, is now more like one of the expensive Home Counties than Norfolk or Suffolk. But if you work out how much Cambridgeshire now gets from Whitehall per resident compared with Hertfordshire, or what South Cambridgeshire District Council gets compared with North Hertfordshire District Council, the difference is striking.

Recently other factors have been at work too, like changes in the rules about what happens to the money raised from council house sales. three quarters of it now all goes into a national pot, some of which the Housing Corporation then doles out again, but in a way that works to the disadvantage of our area. And all the time Whitehall keeps giving local councils more jobs to do, but not enough extra money to meet the extra cost involved. The

crunch point for the District Council came last year, which is why the capping happened.

Most of the money the main councils spend goes on services they have to provide by law- like schools, or emptying the wheelie bins- so by law they can't stop doing them. That leaves the optional services, like the District Council's car park or its street lights. These are the ones they can legally cut. These services may be optional, but you may think they include some pretty vital ones. Without the District Council's funding, for instance, our village mobile warden scheme for the elderly would probably not exist.

That's why the District Council is offering to transfer the car park and responsibility for its street lights to the Parish Council. By shedding some of its optional services

the first place. One advantage of transferring responsibility to the village is that it makes us face up to the fact that these services cost money. How much do we really need them?

Are these extra lights vital to road and pedestrian safety- or are we lighting up our village too much like a town? Is it worth spending a lot of money maintaining a car park when people could park in the road, but at the cost of causing traffic congestion? Do we want to cut the verges as often as we do now? Do you want a really smart village, or would you be content with one that's a bit tatty round the edges, as it used to be years ago?

As time goes by, it's likely the District and County Councils will try to transfer more services to the parish council. Should we take them on? Or should we just let them wither



Coles Lane Car Park up for sale, due to capping

may have to sell its car park (the one next to the Health Centre car park) to the highest bidder as well as turning off its street lights unless the Parish Council takes them over (technically the District Council's lights are called 'footway' lights).

This does not mean all the street lights would go out. Most lights in the village are provided by the County Council. The Highway Authority is required to keep the larger roads well lit by law, the District

looking to cut services, by the way - by mowing the grass verges less frequently for instance.

Why is this happening? Local authority services and finance is a complicated subject- as the size of some of the books in my office bookcase bear witness- so this column is just an outline sketch. We think we pay a lot of council tax, but just think about the many services councils provide, of which education is easily the most expensive.

Things have changed a lot over the last 50 years. Most of the income for district and county councils used to come from the rates. Now, your council tax and other sources of local income only make up about 20% of the District and County Councils' income.

Non-residential occupiers still pay rates, of course, not council tax- but although the rates are still collected by the District Council, since ...the Council has had to pass every penny of them straight on to Whitehall. Whitehall then calculates how much it thinks each council needs and pays out various grants to them. These grants make up the other 80% of council income.

This has the potential to produce a very hard equation. Suppose a council needs to spend £125,000 on providing a



Street Lighting under threat!

Council's lights are mostly optional extras- lighting footpaths and cul-de-sacs for instance, as well as filling in gaps between some of the County Council's lights. About 60 street lights in the village are affected by this decision.

In fairness the District Council is looking to cut its



Increasing workloads for local Parish Council Offices

it will be able to cut its budget. But if the District Council can't afford them, who is the Parish Council able to take them on? Because unlike the main councils, nearly all our income is raised directly from our residents- you and me- and unlike the main councils, parish councils are not subject to government capping.

But are apparent threats to services actually bad news? After all the things the District Council wants us to take on are services it did not have to provide in

away? What do you think? Whoever provides them, ultimately, as national or local tax payers, we all pay for them.

Andrew Gore has been a parish councillor since 1990. Part of his practice as a barrister involves acting

Ever Thought About Becoming a Volunteer?

YOUR local 'Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forum' is looking for new members in your area. If you have some time on your hands and are a user of the NHS, which most of us are, you are eligible. You don't need a background in healthcare, merely an interest in it.

The Forums are made up of local people who are interested and enthusiastic about the health of their local community making sure that the local NHS is able to effectively and efficiently meet the health needs in the area.

This is a government initiative which gives the Forum the right to examine services provided by all NHS providers and to make suggestions for improvements. They deal with a wide range of issues, yet many people have never heard of PPI Forums, which is a terrible shame.

If you would like further information on PPI Forums you can contact the Forum Support Organisation of 0845 0093477.

Why not make that New Year's Resolution one that helps the whole community?

This project is supported by Cambridgeshire Acre.

for councils as well as for people in dispute with them. If you want more information about the mechanics of local government finance, you can contact Andrew Gore via the Parish Office. C^o Andrew Gore

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MINUTES of the meeting of Linton Parish Council, held at the Cathodeon Centre, on Thursday 1st December 2005.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2005 were approved and signed.

Matters arising from the Minutes of 17th November not already listed:

143 – Item 28 C^{llr} Potter reported that he had cleaned out the drains on the Recreation ground but had been unable to ascertain as to where these drains connected to Essex Gardens. The Clerk has written to M^r Knight explaining the situation.

C^{llr} Potter reported that M^r Fairey had agreed to the re-siting of the WI Bench.

143 – Item 29 C^{llr} Rossiter reminded Councillors to return their questionnaires to the Clerk.

The minutes of the Planning meeting held on 17th November 2005 and Finance meeting on 3rd November, were considered and agreed.

Reports from Co-ordinators: Open Spaces – C^{llr} M Clay re-

ported that the red car parked on the junction of Back Road and Rivey Way had returned, and the vehicle tax has now expired. Clerk to inform the authority.

Ringway have commenced repairs to the pavements, kerbs etc.

Recreation Ground - C^{llr} P Kenyon reported that M^r Down, tree surgeon, had made a site visit and had recommended that the pink chestnut near to Stanton's Lane bridge was unsafe. This item to be passed to Finance Committee for ap-



The bench at the top of Rivey Hill, donated by Linton WI

proval of works. It was agreed to replace the concrete bin with those similar to existing.

C^{llr} Bald had previously distributed a progress report on

Stanton's Lane bridge. She was happy to report that the new bridge should be in place by Easter.

It was agreed that the drains on the recreation ground, from the container to the bridge were silted up and needed jetting. An estimate of £450 had been received, this is to be investigated further as this seemed excessive for the 100 metre approx length of the drain.

Cemetery – C^{llr} M Gee to read report on Parish Matters page regarding the memorial and respond accordingly.

The Clerk reported that an old bike and other junk had been hoisted up a tree in the Cemetery.

C^{llr} Cornell reported the meeting of the cemetery working party had been delayed until the new year.

Rights of Way - C^{llr} J Rossiter had previously circulated a report.

Venture Playground – C^{llr} B Hammett had nothing to report

Leadwell Meadow - C^{llr} B D Cox had nothing to report

Glebe Land - C^{llr} J Rossiter in her role as Wildlife Warden would write to the Roadside

Management Team asking them to review their cutting regime. Please send any comments for inclusion to the Clerk.

Churchyard – C^{llr} A Gore had previously distributed a report. C^{llr} Gore reported that until the Safer Routes to School plan is received from the Infants School no work on the paths and lighting could be undertaken. Clerk to write to John Hellingsworth, Tree Officer, informing him of the intention to cut down to ground level the heavily pollarded limes.

C^{llr} Gore reported that he has been co-opted as the PCC rep for the Churchyard working party.

All items from correspondence sheet 11 (Nov) were noted. Of particular interest: Item 49 – e-mail from DC JBatchelor. C^{llr} Gee to investigate.

Item 53 – C^{llr} Rossiter has written to SCDC regarding waste of public money.

Parish Matters – In a report to council, C^{llr} Potter indicated he would vacate the chair for this item as he was involved, this was agreed and C^{llr} Gore took

the chair for this item.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the merits of continuing with the Parish Matters page. All councillors gave their opinion in turn.

C^{llr} Gore proposed a vote of: Does the Parish Council wish to investigate the production of its' own paper independently of the Linton News?

The proposal carried is:

A working party was formed consisting of C^{llrs} Albrow, Bald, Cornell and Hickford and any councillors



St Mary's Churchyard

absent tonight will be invited to join. They will consider the various alternatives within the Quality Parish Sta-

tus (QPS) remit and report back.

It was agreed to accept Proposal 1 until the recommendations from the working party are received.

Proposal 1:

'This council agrees to continue with Parish Matters being their pages published within The Linton News under the understanding that it will be within the LNT remit of content for articles, and that it furthers the Councils plans of gaining Quality Parish Council Status.'

Sale of public car park off Coles Lane, Linton. Discussion took place and it was agreed to express an interest in principle and to await an assessment from the valuers.

Matters Arising (for information only)

C^{llr} Cornell reported that CCC had not objected to the S' Edmundsbury District Local Plan and she has sent an email of complaint to the Director of Sustainable Infrastructure.

C^{llr} Bald advised that the Primary Care Trusts meet on 2nd December.

The meeting closed at 21.50

Is your lamp under threat?



PARISH MATTERS this month carries articles on South Cambs. District Councils forced cost cutting exercise. One is the future of our carpark which will be at a great cost from our budget but can be planned over a number of years and will be a one off, the other is the turning off of their street lamps some 84 in Linton.

We were given a location for all 84 but as this contained errors and ambiguities we have resorted to a picture. If a lamp near you has a sign like the one to the left, then its due to be turned OFF. SC stand for South Cambs. CCC is for Cambridge County Council lamps which will not be turned off.

Should they be turned off?

Do we turn them off or pay £33 per light plus £620 insurance cover for all 84 to keep them on.

Let us know please.

Facing the Future

the moment park?

Thirdly, the District Council has informed us that it will be turning off its street lights unless the Parish Council takes them over. This does not mean all the street lights would go as many lights for larger roads have to be provided by the County Council, but lights on footpaths and cul-de-sacs and some between the County Council lights would go. So the questions are whether we need all the lights we have, do we want them all and if so, are we prepared to pay for them?

Unfortunately we often do not have time to consult as fully as we would like with parishioners, however you have elected us to make decisions on your behalf and we will do so, but there will be more of this type of decision to be made as time goes on. If you have views on these or other issues in the village you should make them known to us, and if you want to make a difference, stand for election to the Parish Council.

Simon Alper, Chairman of Finance

PART-TIME ASSISTANT REQUIRED

Linton Parish Council requires a part-time assistant for the council office for 10 hours per week, initially for 6 months.

Computer literacy and office experience essential

For further information contact the Parish Clerk

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