

Northby NorthEast



Local Community News

www.great-linford.gov.uk



SUMMER OF FUN

Discover a Summer of Fun for all ages with our best ever programme of activities. *See pull out guide*

ARTWORKS MK

Discover a sleeping beauty – Artworks MK plans to revive local arts centre. *See page 3*

ECO-FESTIVAL

Discover furry friends and healthy trends at the latest Eco-Festival. *See page 5*

contacts

Below is a list of GLPC parish councillors, the wards they represent and their contact details.

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Vacancy - please contact
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Parish Manager

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Front Cover:

Lush pathway near Railway Walk,
Great Linford. Photo by Mark Coster.

Reporter: Linda Inoki.



summer 2013

councillor comment

GLPC – your planning watchdog

Controversial planning issues such as the HS2 rail link or wind farms often hit the national news. You might think this is a world away from what happens in your street. Actually, parish councils play an active role in the planning system, watching over local development plans, or applications to change the use of land, in the best interests of local residents.

All development must have planning permission; only minor alterations such as new windows, small extensions and outbuildings can be built without.

MK Council must consult with neighbours and GLPC about planning applications in the parish. To carry weight, any objections we make must be based on national and local planning policy.

Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and comment on current applications. MK Council make the final decision, but when we have objected they regularly refuse permission based on contradictions of planning policy. This includes parking issues, overlooking a neighbour's garden, or density - where someone wants to build a large house, say, in a back garden.

Sometimes we also object to big developments outside our parish. Recently we were one of several parish councils that lodged strong objections to plans to demolish Secklow Gate Bridge in CMK for a Primark store. Why? Because the loss of the direct route, the rise in traffic along H5 Portway, relocating the market and the damage to our city's heritage would have directly affected many residents, especially in Conniburrow and Downs Barn. Dramatically, the applicant withdrew their plans at the last moment. Of course, developers often return with revised plans, but GLPC is here to act as public watchdog in the complex and often fiery arena of planning.

If you have experience in dealing with planning applications, why not join your Parish Council?



David Stabler
GLPC Councillor

www.great-linford.gov.uk



WAKING UP a sleeping beauty

Why not discover your creative side this summer? GLPC is offering local children five heritage craft workshops at Artworks MK, in the courtyard off Parklands, in this year's Summer of Fun programme. See pull out guide.

On an early summer's day the grounds of Great Linford Manor Park are both lush - and hushed. Only the odd walker strolls past the almshouses or pauses by the pond. But upstairs, in the old stone barn, a small team of people answer phones, tap keyboards and deal with a constant trickle of enquiries.

This is the nerve-centre of Artworks MK, led by Emma-Jayne Taylor, who has come to this semi-rural landscape after working in the heart of London, at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Her mission is to wake up this sleeping beauty of an arts centre, and spread the benefits of creativity throughout Milton Keynes.

In the empty barn, Emma-Jayne unfurls architects' plans for a major refurbishment that, she says, will help transform the "very shabby resources" of the arts centre and give it new life. Before long the smell of roasting coffee and baking bread could be greeting visitors, along with the buzz of creative activity. "We want to create a social space for exhibitions, theatre, music, gatherings and even weddings," says Emma-Jayne. "It's not reinventing the wheel - this was all part of the original vision for the people of Milton Keynes."

Plans include a new café and courtyard seating area designed by architects Manalo & White, framed by a new garden. "Everything

reflects craft disciplines so that everything has a meaning. For example, we're working with a local quilter to fix the natural wool insulation in place, up among the beams of the barn." Emma-Jayne looks across the dull gravel car park and roundly declares, "It will be a beautiful location!"

The first exhibition will be "MK Calling", 6 July - 9 September, in collaboration with MK Gallery in Central Milton Keynes. The building work will be finished in mid-July and the main launch is scheduled for September, with an exhibition by a famous ceramic artist.

Meanwhile, there are new artists in residence in the old almshouses and Schoolhouse and a fresh programme of courses for residents, from jewellery to Japanese woodblock prints. There is a lot to do but the team at Artworks MK brims with confidence.

"I can only spend so much time talking about things," says Emma-Jayne. "There's a real need for an accessible arts centre like this and we've got to move quickly to make it happen."

She is clearly well-connected, ambitious and somewhat impatient; useful when trying to rouse a sleeping beauty from a long, lonely sleep!



TOP: Artists now have studios in the historic almshouses and Schoolhouse off Parklands, Great Linford. Photo by Mark Coster

LEFT: Craft workshops in the courtyard, Great Linford.

FAR LEFT: Children can discover their creative side at Artworks MK.

BLAKELANDS | BOLBECK PARK | CONNIBURROW | DOWNHEAD PARK
DOWNS BARN | GIFFARD PARK | GREAT LINFORD | NEATH HILL
PENNYLAND | REDHOUSE PARK | TONGWELL | WILLEN PARK



Discover a cleaner, brighter place

Nobody likes to see litter - which is possibly why litterbugs chuck their rubbish into ponds! On recent tidy-up days in Neath Hill, Pennyland and Great Linford volunteers dived into the shrubbery, scoured the pathways and even dredged the water in a quest to root out buried trash and brighten up the district.

It was a record haul, including two claw hammers, a tyre, gas cylinder and fish tank! Ruth Panther, from the parish office, helped organise the event and says "For me it's a really rewarding experience. At one point I could see at least ten beer cans in a hole and I was determined to get them. The others had to pull me out of the hedge!"

Some people might think 'it's not our job to pick up after other people's mess,' but Ruth says "We can only lead by example. One piece of litter encourages more litter, so it's everybody's job to keep the environment nice." With all sorts of rubbish dragged out of the ponds our local ducks and fish will certainly be happier.

One of the saddest sights was the bundles of undelivered newspapers thrown into hedges and other wildlife areas. GLPC has taken up the problem with both the MK News and the Citizen, but, although they promised reprisals against lazy delivery people, they did not seem to understand the grief it causes local residents.

MP Mark Lancaster, who joined in the

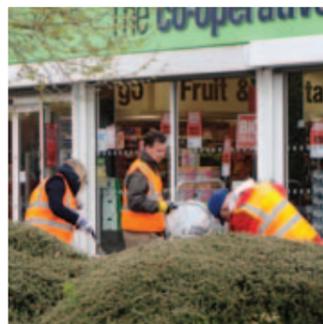
tidy up, said he was "staggered" by the amount of rubbish found but praised all the volunteers for rolling up their sleeves and making a difference. If you want Parish Ranger Simon Bates to organise another successful tidy up day near you, please contact the parish office, who would be delighted to hear from you.

TOP LEFT: Volunteers survey their haul at Pennyland.

TOP RIGHT: Parish Guardian Tom Brook wades into Peartree Pond.

BELOW L TO R: MP Mark Lancaster lends a hand; Just some of the ditched newspapers recovered by the team; Councillors sort out the mess for recycling; Enjoying a break at the Little Bookshop in Great Linford local centre.

Photos by Simon Bates



Summer of Fun 2013

Something to do Every Day!



Great Locality Proud Community



Great Linford Parish Council see our blog... glpcsummer.wordpress.com



PARAMOUNT PARKOUR £2 for 2hrs

Age range: Suitable for 10 - 16 years old. Max 30 per session.

Paramount Parkour Academy free running classes. Learn the art behind this extreme sport in a safe environment. Starting with a warm up then the emphasis will be on learning techniques that translate directly to the street. Expect lots of vaulting, precision work, rolling, foot placement, stealth, balance drills, space awareness games, and near the end of the class before cooling down, an obstacle course will be set up enabling everyone to put the techs they've learned, into practice.

Dress code: loose clothing – trainers or soft-soled shoes.

Location: Gt Linford Primary School

KARUNA YOGA ONLY £2

Age range: Adults only - over 18s. Max 25 per session.

Karuna Yoga classes soothe the nervous system, sharpen focus and help promotes strength, flexibility, healthy breathing. It is inspired by the work of BKS Iyengar, a method renowned for its precision and attention to detail that allows Practitioners to progress confidently and Teachers to lead safe and effective yoga classes. You will be asked to complete a medical form.

Dress code: clothes you can move in - jogging bottoms/ leggings, T-shirt and a top (for relaxation).

Location: Gt Linford Memorial Hall.

£2 for per session of 1¼ hour.

THE SMALL PRINT
Parents will be asked to provide contact details and sign a disclaimer for each child taking part in any paid activity.
Some events require small children to be accompanied by a parent, grandparent or guardian.
All instructors and staff at events are fully insured and CRB checked.
First Aid trained staff will be on-hand at every event.

MILTON KEYNES PLAY ASSOCIATION FREE!

Age range: Suitable for 4 -14 years old, please bring your parents or grandparents.

Try your hand at craft, bouncy castle, and other activities; join in the fun and games led by a team of qualified play-workers.

- Sessions include:**
- Sports – cricket, rounders and football
 - Games - including treasure hunts, rope bridge building and team games
 - Bouncy castle or slide
 - Lots of practical crafts
 - Fun for everyone

Dress code: outdoor activity clothing to suit the weather – trainers or shoes.

NOTE: All sessions are open access and children remain the responsibility of parents at all times.

Locations:
Tuesday afternoons on 30 July, 6, 13, 20 & 27 August
Downs Barn sports ground

Thursday afternoons on 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 August
Marsh Drive sports ground
NO BOOKING REQUIRED

JUGGLING & CIRCUS SKILLS £2 for 2hrs

Age range: All ages welcome but MUST be accompanied if 6 or under. Max 30 per session.

The Great Gappo will bring you laughter and fun as you learn a range of circus skills; from plate spinning, juggling, diabolos, and much, much more.

Dress code: loose clothing – trainers or soft-soled shoes.

Location: Cross & Stable, Downs Barn.

STREET DANCE £1 per hour

Followed by MUSICAL THEATRE NEW EVENT

Split sessions of 1 hour each Street Dance then Musical Theatre.

Age range: Suitable for 10 upwards and adults. Max 25 per session.

Street Dance is one of the fastest growing and changing contemporary dance forms.

Bust some funky moves and learn a routine by trying the latest street dance & hip hop dance moves. Dance sessions are for children and adults – beginners to professionals. We encourage attendance each week so that you can learn a routine.

Musical Theatre. Have you ever dreamed of dancing in the West End? Then stay on after Street Dance and in this class you'll learn a medley of dances from hit musicals from Hairspray to Grease. Join the fun for a journey through some of Broadway, West End and the movies most loved musicals.

Dress code: loose clothing – trainers or soft-soled shoes.

Location: Gt Linford Memorial Hall.

£1 for each session of 1 hour.

TENNIS FREE!

Age range: Suitable for 5 - 13 years old. Max 12 per session.

Junior Tennis Coaching. Meet new friends for coaching sessions with a mixture of speed, agility, balance and coordination including basic racquet methods. This introduction to the game will teach you all the key skills you need, or develop those you have already, to progress quickly, not just in tennis but other sports.

Dress code: gym or sports clothing – trainers.

Location: Downs Barn sports ground, Pannier Place.

FUTURE FOODIES COOKERY £2 for 2hrs

Age range: Suitable for 4 - 9 years old, must be with an adult. Max 8 children + adults

Future Foodies cookery school for children offers a unique true life skills experience. Together families plan, prepare and cook a tasty, healthy lunch, then take home the food you have prepared. Future Foodies recipes are created with children in mind, simple to prepare, nutritionally balanced and are great fun to cook, with a different menu each week, plus a recipe card.

Dress code: Ask Mum!

Location: High St cricket pavilion, Gt Linford.

Parking: Car park off High Street opposite Memorial Hall.

ORIENTEERING FREE!

Age range: Suitable for adults and accompanied children under 16. Max 25 per session.

Orienteering is the sport of competitive map reading suitable for participants of all ages and levels of fitness. Designed for families who want to add some interest to a walk in the park, the opening session will introduce the orienteering map, how to use a compass and look at simple techniques to navigate safely. Then with specially prepared maps, you will set off, on a route chosen by you, to plot your way between a series of checkpoints.

Dress code: whatever you would wear for a walk or run on a sports field.

Location: High St cricket pavilion, Gt Linford.

Parking: Car park off High Street opposite Memorial Hall.

WOMEN'S ROUNDERS FREE!

Age range: Suitable for women over 16. Max 16 per session.

Turn up for a social game exclusively for women 16 and over, who want to put a bat and ball together and have a fun game of rounders. A great opportunity to exercise, keep fit and get some fresh air and vitamin D. Alex a Personal Trainer at Everfitt will be running coaching sessions with a competitive spirit and lots of banter all round.

Dress code: gym or sports clothing – trainers

Location: Downs Barn sports ground, Pannier Place.

ZUMBA FITNESS £1 per hour

Followed by ZUMBATOMIC KIDS NEW EVENT

Split sessions of 1 hour each; Zumba Fitness for adults, then Zumbatomic for children.

Age ranges: Adults over 18, children 5 - 11 years old. Max 15 - 20 per session

Zumba Fitness is an easy to follow, fun workout to Latin and international rhythms such as; merengue, salsa, flamenco and more. At a Zumba Fitness class we try to create a party like atmosphere and as such they have been branded as “exercise in disguise” because, you will be burning calories whilst enjoying the class so much it feels more like a party than a workout.

Zumbatomic is a children’s version of Zumba Fitness and simple to follow. Sometimes we incorporate musical games. Usually classes are divided by age - Lil Stars 5 - 7 years and Big Stars 8 - 11 years.

Dress code: wear something you feel relaxed and comfortable in.

Location: Conniburrow Pavilion.

DANCE £1 per hour

Followed by DRAMA

Split sessions of 1 hour each Dance then Drama.

Age range: Suitable for 6 - 10 years old. Max 25 per session.

Dance. Join in jazz based dance classes – great for all abilities, it can be lots of fun.

Drama. Stay on after dance for creative drama classes, led by a professional drama teacher. Including improvisation, drama games and mime.

Dress code: loose clothing – trainers or soft-soled shoes.

Location: Cross & Stable, Downs Barn.

GEOCACHING FREE!

Age range: Suitable for adults and accompanied children aged 8 - 12 years. Max 25 per session.

Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunt game, which can be fun for everyone! Using a smart phone or GPS device find your way to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then look for the container hidden at that location. There are millions of geocaches in the world and once you start finding them you'll be hooked. Why not join us at our “Introduction to Geocaching” session to learn what it is all about and we'll get you started by finding a few caches nearby.

Dress code: whatever you would wear to walk or run on a sports field.

Location: High St cricket pavilion, Gt Linford.

Parking: Car park off High Street opposite Memorial Hall.

HERITAGE CRAFTS – ARTWORKS- MK £2 for 2hrs

NEW EVENT

Age range: Suitable for 11 - 16 years old. Max 12 per session.

Guided by professional artists explore traditional materials in new and exciting ways. This is a brilliant opportunity to learn creative skills hands-on at your local arts centre.

Giant Lace with The Bradwell Abbey Lacemakers - 2nd & 30th August

Lace-making on a giant scale, experimenting as a group with oversize bobbins, shapes and interesting materials to create an installation which will be displayed on site.

Heritage Sounds with Harry Taylor - 9th August

Take part in this bold, interactive sound installation using found objects. Using microphones, distorters and amplifiers you will learn how to record an experimental audio piece.

Blacksmith Printmaking with Nick Packham - 16th August

Learn the art of working with metals, manipulating surfaces to create textures and use them to produce colourful prints.

Contemporary Monsters with Edith Garcia - 23rd August

Join Edith for a playful workshop exploring and constructing your own contemporary monster using clay and a mix of traditional materials.

Dress code: Casual, some events might be messy.

Location: Artworks MK, off Parklands, Gt Linford.

SPECIAL OPS MK SURVIVAL SKILLS & LASER TAG £5 for 5hrs

NEW EVENT

Age range: Suitable for 8 -14 years old. Max 25 per session.

Tuesdays - Survival Skills Ex-army Sgt. Mack has experience in survival and bush craft to offer kids a specially devised program based on survival skills, problem solving and team building. You will learn how to build an all-weather shelter, safe fire starting methods, wild food collection and the importance of a positive mental attitude, self-worth, confidence and responsibility.

Cook your own lunch - food provided. If you are a bit choosey about what you eat bring a packed lunch. Please bring a drink.

Wednesdays - Laser Tag The new alternative to Paint Ball, but without the mess and sting from the paint balls – it's totally harmless, with no shortage of ammo either. Play at being soldiers and have lots of fun games like capture the flag and hostage rescue.

Cook your own lunch - food provided. If you are a bit choosey about what you eat bring a packed lunch. Please bring a drink.

Dress code: outdoor activity clothing (they may get dirty) to suit the weather – trainers or sturdy shoes.

Location: Marsh Drive sports ground, Gt Linford.

Advance booking required for ALL activities*

*except MKPA

Some events have limited numbers. To guarantee your place buy your tickets in advance from; The Parish Office, 10 Tower Crescent Neath Hill MK14 6JY

To avoid disappointment please check for availability, tel: **01908 606613**



activities timetable

date	activity	time	place
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JULY

MON 29th	Paramount Parkour	9.30 – 11.30	LS
	Juggling & Circus	2.00 – 4.00	XS
	Tennis	2.30 – 4.00	PP
TUES 30th	Special Ops Survival	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Karuna Yoga	10.30 – 11.45	MH
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	PP
WEDS 31st	Special Ops Lazer Tag	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Street Dance	2.00 – 3.00	MH
	Musical Theatre	3.00 – 4.00	MH
	Dance	2.00 – 3.00	XS
	Drama	3.15 – 4.15	XS

AUGUST

THURS 1st	Future Foodies cookery	10.00 – 12.00	HC
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	MD
	Zumba fitness	2.00 – 3.00	CP
	Zumbatomic	3.15 – 4.15	CP
	Rounders	18.30 – 20.00	PP
FRI 2nd	Paramount Parkour	9.30 – 11.30	LS
	Geocaching	10.00 – 12.00	HC
	Crafts – Lace	10.00 – 12.00	AW
MON 5th	Paramount Parkour	9.30 – 11.30	LS
	Juggling & Circus	2.00 – 4.00	XS
	Tennis	2.30 – 4.00	PP
TUES 6th	Special Ops Survival	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Karuna Yoga	10.30 – 11.45	MH
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	PP
WEDS 7th	Special Ops Lazer Tag	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Street Dance	2.00 – 3.00	MH
	Musical Theatre	3.00 – 4.00	MH
	Dance	2.00 – 3.00	XS
	Drama	3.15 – 4.15	XS
THURS 8th	Future Foodies cookery	10.00 – 12.00	HC
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	MD
	Zumba fitness	2.00 – 3.00	CP
	Zumbatomic	3.15 – 4.15	CP
	Rounders	18.30 – 20.00	PP
	Orienteering	19.00 – 21.00	HC
FRI 9th	Paramount Parkour	9.30 – 11.30	LS
	Crafts – Sounds	10.00 – 12.00	AW
MON 12th	Paramount Parkour	9.30 – 11.30	LS
	Juggling & Circus	2.00 – 4.00	XS
	Tennis	2.30 – 4.00	PP
TUES 13th	Special Ops Survival	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Karuna Yoga	10.30 – 11.45	MH
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	PP
WEDS 14th	Special Ops Lazer Tag	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Street Dance	2.00 – 3.00	MH
	Musical Theatre	3.00 – 4.00	MH
	Dance	2.00 – 3.00	XS
	Drama	3.15 – 4.15	XS
THURS 15th	Future Foodies cookery	10.00 – 12.00	HC
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	MD
	Zumba fitness	2.00 – 3.00	CP
	Zumbatomic	3.15 – 4.15	CP
	Rounders	18.30 – 20.00	PP
	Orienteering	19.00 – 21.00	HC

date	activity	time	place
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FRI 16th	Paramount Parkour	9.30 – 11.30	LS
	Crafts – Printmaking	10.00 – 12.00	AW
MON 19th	Paramount Parkour	9.30 – 11.30	LS
	Juggling & Circus	2.00 – 4.00	XS
	Tennis	2.30 – 4.00	PP
TUES 20th	Special Ops Survival	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Karuna Yoga	10.30 – 11.45	MH
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	PP
WEDS 21st	Special Ops Lazer Tag	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Street Dance	2.00 – 3.00	MH
	Musical Theatre	3.00 – 4.00	MH
	Dance	2.00 – 3.00	XS
	Drama	3.15 – 4.15	XS
THURS 22nd	Future Foodies cookery	10.00 – 12.00	HC
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	MD
	Zumba fitness	2.00 – 3.00	CP
	Zumbatomic	3.15 – 4.15	CP
	Rounders	18.30 – 20.00	PP
	Orienteering	19.00 – 21.00	HC
FRI 23rd	Paramount Parkour	9.30 – 11.30	LS
	Crafts – Monsters	10.00 – 12.00	AW
TUES 27th	Special Ops Survival	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Karuna Yoga	10.30 – 11.45	MH
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	PP
WEDS 28th	Special Ops Lazer Tag	10.00 – 3.00	MD
	Street Dance	2.00 – 3.00	MH
	Musical Theatre	3.00 – 4.00	MH
	Juggling & Circus	2.00 – 4.00	XS
THURS 29th	Future Foodies cookery	10.00 – 12.00	HC
	MKPA	2.00 – 4.00	MD
	Zumba fitness	2.00 – 3.00	CP
	Zumbatomic	3.15 – 4.15	CP
	Rounders	18.30 – 20.00	PP
	Orienteering	19.00 – 21.00	HC
FRI 30th	Paramount Parkour	9.30 – 11.30	LS
	Geocaching	10.00 – 12.00	CP
	Crafts – Lace	10.00 – 12.00	AW

Where are the activities being held?

LS	Great Linford Primary School, St Leger Drive MK14 5BL
AW	Artworks MK, off Parklands, Great Linford MK14 5AX
MH	Memorial Hall, off Marsh Drive, Great Linford MK14 5AX
HC	High Street Cricket Pavilion, Great Linford MK14 5AX
MD	Sports Ground, Marsh Drive, Great Linford MK14 5HH
XS	The Cross & Stable Community Centre, Downs Barn Boulevard MK14 7RP
PP	Sports Ground, Pannier Place, Downs Barn MK14 7QP
CP	Conniburrow Pavillion, Conniburrow Boulevard MK14 7A



information

DISCOVER furry friends & healthy trends

This year the combined dog show and eco-festival organised by GLPC promises to be the biggest ever, with more pooches to ponder and stands to browse than ever before.

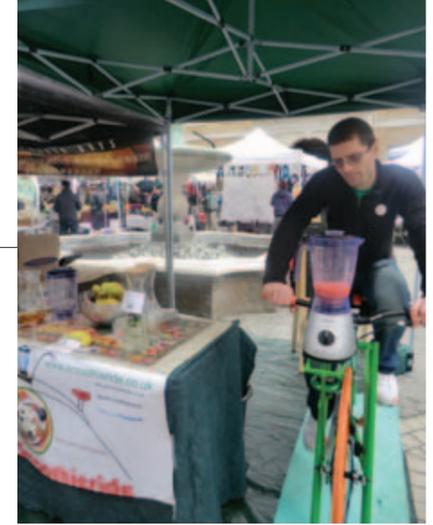
Around forty enterprises and groups will be there, waiting to offer ideas and advice on everything from canine care to making organic cider. It's also the perfect place to pick up some bargain plants, crafts and tasty treats.

For example, how about making your own delicious smoothie by pedal-power? Smoothieride is a fun new enterprise started by caterer Aurel Nastase a few months ago and it's already proving a hit at fairs and corporate events. Aurel provides the fruit and other ingredients and customers can have a go on the custom-made bike, producing their very own smoothie without burning fossil fuels. "I really enjoy doing it," says Aurel, "it's tasty, healthy and brings a smile to people's faces. Most people have a go and

that's the whole concept; you deserve your smoothie. Children love it!"

Of course we wouldn't have much fruit, nuts or produce at all if it wasn't for pollinating insects, especially those wonderful bees. Sadly, bees throughout Europe are in crisis, weakened by mites and a cocktail of man-made pesticides. But we can all help these admirable insects, right on our doorstep in Milton Keynes. Why not talk to Milton Keynes Friends of the Earth (MK FOE) at the festival? Over the past year local enthusiasts re-started this group and ever since have been busily campaigning to help the bees. Look out for MK FOE members at the festival – they'll be buzzing about dressed like our stripey friends!

The dog show and eco-festival is held on the football grounds off Marsh Drive, Great Linford, on Sunday 14 July from 10am to 4pm. Why not bring a picnic and make a day of it or buy refreshments at the fair?



TOP: Aurel and his one-man smoothie machine.

CENTRE: Lorraine Janes and Kai won a prize at Crufts after appearing at the GLPC dog show!

ABOVE: busy bees from MK Friends of the Earth running the half marathon.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR HIDDEN GEMS

Milton Keynes is the most intriguing mixture of old and new. If you have any favourite, undiscovered spot in the parish why not send us your photos and a few words about why this place is special? Meanwhile here are some images to inspire you.

Parish gems; FAR LEFT: Tongwell Lake, by David Stabler. LEFT: A mossy relic of Linford Manor gardens, near the Railway Walk, by Mark Coster. Originally part of the overflow system for ponds in the Manor grounds, the building of the canal in 1817 isolated this feature from the rest of the park.





Discovering local matters

Nearly a hundred local residents came to the annual parish meeting in May, both to meet local celebrity Pete Winkelman and hear about current projects and future plans for the parish.

Pete Winkelman, who lives at Great Linford Manor, gave a typically upbeat talk. "When I came to live at the Manor it was cut off from the community - like a fortress! Then we started the Waterside Festival and all sorts of people started to come along. My first football pitch was a field on Marsh Drive, and now we have a

stadium and the Rugby World Cup coming to Milton Keynes. Who'd have thought it? I travel round the country and I can't tell you how wonderful it is to get back to junction 14!" But Pete warned that to keep it wonderful means getting involved; even sending in views or suggestions to the parish council makes a difference.

"Don't get upset - get engaged!" was Pete's heartfelt advice.

"One thing that lets Great Linford down is the local centre," said one resident, "it was built in the 1970's and looks like it!"

Keith Panes, chair of GLPC, replied "As we work on the Neighbourhood Plan we can look at how the local centres could be shaped in future. Please get involved; we really do need your ideas on what you'd like."

On a positive note, Kim Woodhouse, chair of Great Linford Allotments Association, said that thanks to the efforts of GLPC to erect new fences "We are a lot more secure than we used to be."

TOP LEFT: Pete Winkelman and Keith Panes at the annual parish meeting.

PARKLANDS: we are listening



Since the Parks Trust has indicated possible changes to local parklands there has been increasing concern about what the future holds. As the local Parish Council, we recognise that everyone benefits from long term investment in our parks, but we also realise that it costs money, which poses a challenge for the Parks Trust.

Although the Parish Council has no decision-making powers over any future proposals, we are determined

to ensure that the views of local people are taken into account.

To this end we have agreed to support the public consultation process and make it as broad and transparent as possible. This is likely to include a stakeholder workshop in early autumn followed by public meetings. The Parish Council has explained to the Parks Trust that at this stage our role is to listen, however we will view any proposals as a whole, in order to provide a sporting

and recreation environment that maximises its potential for all residents.

Once the public consultation is finished, and we have seen actual proposals from the Parks Trust, we will be able to adopt a formal, considered position.

As usual, any Parish Council meetings on the subject will be open to the public. Residents will be able to follow progress reports through the website, notice boards and magazine.

If you have any views on the subject I would encourage you to complete the Parks Trust's initial questionnaire in the booklet; you do not have to wait until one of the public meetings.

GLPC Chair, Cllr Keith Panes, OBE

BACKGROUND: Green vista. Photo by Mark Coster

ABOVE LEFT: Listening to residents at the annual parish meeting.



news&views

why not send us your news & views?

FREEWHEELING FUN

Imagine the thrill of flying along on a bicycle when every step is normally difficult or downright impossible.



Freewheelers on the move!

This is the reason behind Freewheelers - a local group that helps about 50 adults with learning disabilities discover the fun of cycling with companions.

GLPC recently gave Freewheelers a parish grant of £400. Janet Godfrey, volunteer fundraiser from Downhead Park, says the grant was vital to keep the group afloat. As well as the everyday costs of storage and maintaining the specially designed bikes, the group is currently trying to raise £3,500 to buy a second 'Veloplus' model. This is designed for people with

profound disabilities who need to stay in their wheelchair during the ride.

If you would like to help or want more information, please contact the Physio Team, based at Currier Drive in Neath Hill, via 01908 257959 or email elissa.hough@milton-keynes.gov.uk

What's in a name?

Even though it stretches from the outskirts of Central Milton Keynes to the edge of Newport Pagnell the district of Northeast MK is named the parish of Great Linford.

This can cause an identity problem. As one resident at the annual parish meeting put it; "As a resident of Redhouse Park I don't feel that we're on the map. It's Great Linford-centric!"

While there is still a vacancy for a councillor to represent Redhouse Park, the twelve serving parish councillors certainly consider the interests of the whole area.

If you have any time to spare to represent local residents, or any views on renaming the parish, please get in touch.



Councillor wanted for Redhouse Park

NEATH HILL PARKING - BEWARE!

To anyone who is in the habit of dumping their car on a corner or in a delivery or disabled bay - beware!



"Is this your (illegally parked) vehicle Sir?"

The Council is now getting tough on parking transgressions around the local centre, and anyone who is not parked properly, in a marked bay, is likely to get fined. This will be good news to the majority of citizens who are, of course, perfect parkers!

Japonica Lane - proceed with caution?

After a long wait, improvements to the junction of Japonica Lane and Brickhill Street were finally completed in May.

Brian Brookman, a Lovat Fields Village resident who organised a petition for improvements, says "the junction is now a great deal safer, particularly if you are heading north along Brickhill Street and want to turn into

Japonica Lane." However if you are turning right out of Japonica, towards Portway, it is not so easy. "MK Council officers told us the central reservation would be wider," says Mr Brookman.

"As it turns out, it's too narrow and you have to be careful not to encroach on the main traffic lanes when using the central reservation." Furthermore, it is not clear which vehicle has priority when several cars are using the junction at once.



New junction at Japonica Lane

GLPC is pleased the work has been done but has reported its own safety concerns to MK Council.

WE WELCOME YOUR VIEWS

We are always interested in feedback from our newsletter, and your views on anything that affects your community.

Please send your letters to: Parish Council Offices 10 Tower Crescent Neath Hill Local Centre Neath Hill MK14 6JY

or email: parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk

and finally...

a calendar of local events to look out for

JULY

Eco Festival & Dog Show 14 July

10-4pm at Marsh Drive Football Ground, Great Linford.

Fun community event for all the family. Stands, stalls and entertainment. North Bucks Bat Group, North Bucks Bee Keepers Association, Allotment Association, wood turning, craft stands, charity stalls and many more – buy local produce and locally made goods.

AUGUST

Redhouse Park Family Picnic 13 August

Everyone welcome! Bring your own picnic, get to know your neighbours, make new friends and join in the organised games. From 12 – 4pm, Saturday 13th August, at the pond area, Hambledines, Redhouse Park. Organised by Redhouse Park Neighbourhood Watch group. See parish website for updates.

SEPTEMBER

Annual Produce Show 8 September

Great Linford Allotment Association annual show. Gt Linford Memorial Hall, off Marsh Drive. www.great-linford-allotment-association.co.uk.

Guerrilla Gardening 13 September

We are looking for an overgrown area that really needs some attention. Please send us your suggestions.

OCTOBER

Orchard Day 20 October

Celebrate the apple in the Downs Barn community orchard. Enter the apple pie competition and buy local preserves made with apples. Watch an apple pressing demonstration and hear about cider making.

Bulb Planting

Wychford, Giffard Park & Hammond Crescent, Downhead Park.

Dates to be agreed nearer to bulb-planting season and published on our website.

NOVEMBER

Dog Walk & Tidy Up 16 November

Join us with your dog (or just yourself!) for a walk, talk and tidy up. Location to be agreed, depending on which area needs the most attention.

Parish Ranger Days 26 July, 29 August, 20 September

Simon Bates, our friendly Parish Ranger, will be out and about on the above dates. Why not join him and find out about what he does and how you can help? Or if you see him out and about, just stop for a chat. He's the one wearing the big yellow jacket.

NEW CANDIDATES WELCOME ANYTIME!

New candidates for councillor vacancies are welcome anytime. Most recently we have welcomed Cllr Sam Crooks and Cllr Ian Foskett to Gt Linford ward, Cllr Patrick Makoni (Conniburrow) and Cllr Kathy Poultney (Downs Barn) but we still have vacancies for Downhead Park & Willen Park, Neath Hill, Great Linford, Pennyland & Bolbeck Park, Redhouse Park and Giffard Park wards to bring us up to our full complement of twenty representatives. Please get in touch if you would like to help.

DRAGON'S PARK AT GREAT LINFORD

This park is about 30 years old and sadly looks its age. The Parish Council is looking to improve the state of this much-loved, well-used area. If you have any thoughts or ideas we would love to hear from you. The renovation project is at its very early stages but we are aiming to gather feedback into the Autumn.



don't forget...
Great Linford Allotment Association's 2013 Annual Produce Show
Sunday 8 September



www.great-linford.gov.uk

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