

# Northby NorthEast



News from your Parish Council

[www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)



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

## contacts

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

### Conniburrow

**Claudius Munangati** 07581 445089  
claudius.munangati@great-linford.gov.uk

**Matthew Iria** 01908 384107  
matthew.iria@great-linford.gov.uk

**Maureen Windridge**  
maureen.windridge@great-linford.gov.uk

### Downhead Park & Willen Park

**Simon Teesdale** 07904 017255  
simon.teesdale@great-linford.gov.uk

Vacancy

### Downs Barn

**Kathy Windle**  
kathy.windle@great-linford.gov.uk

**Janet Maclean**  
janet.maclean@great-linford.gov.uk

### Giffard Park & Blakelands

**Keith Panes** 07921 240447  
keith.panes@great-linford.gov.uk

**Peter Widdowson** 01908 617078  
peter.widdowson@great-linford.gov.uk

**Tony Bedford**  
tony.bedford@great-linford.gov.uk

### Great Linford

**Sam Crooks** 07803 036656  
sam.crooks@great-linford.gov.uk

**Ian Foskett** 01908 606613  
ian.foskett@great-linford.gov.uk

2 Vacancies

### Neath Hill

**David Stabler** 01908 672599  
david.stabler@great-linford.gov.uk

Vacancy

### Pennyland & Bolbeck Park

**Ray Yeates** 07525 759815  
ray.yeates@great-linford.gov.uk

### Redhouse Park

**Allan Calverley** 07720 467334  
allan.calverley@great-linford.gov.uk



# winter 2014

## councillor comment

### Becoming a new Parish Councillor

I have lived in Downs Barn for twenty years and as a stay-at-home mum got involved through the local toddlers' group and schools. When my children were a bit older I returned to work full time. Now they are older still, I decided to do a little more and put my name forward to GLPC as a Parish Councillor. An induction course helped me understand the role.

We meet twice a month at the parish office but there are lots of other things to do. This summer I took part in the new Community Fun Day; I enjoyed meeting residents during the Neighbourhood Plan consultations, and met other people from all over MK at meetings such as the Parish Forum.

Planning applications are always coming up and while MK Council makes the decision to grant or refuse, GLPC sends in comments. In David Stabler we are lucky to have a Councillor who is very experienced at looking into planning applications and he gives us valuable insights into issues that others might easily miss. I spent a morning learning about the process with David and hope to go on a further training course run by MK Council.

I still have a lot to learn, but would thoroughly recommend it. We currently have six vacancies out of twenty seats on the Parish Council. So if you want to discover an interesting and rewarding role, don't be shy. Just put your name forward, like I did, and give it a go!



### Councillor Janet Maclean

ABOVE: Janet, centre, with fellow Parish Councillors Sam Crooks and Mathew Iria.

[www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)

#### Parish Manager

**Eirwen Tagg** parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk

#### Parish Council Office

10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill Local Centre,  
Neath Hill MK14 6JY Tel: 01908 606613

#### North by NorthEast

Editor: Linda Inoki

#### Front Cover:

Graphic by Robert Rusin



# Bringing the community together

Perhaps one of the most useful things we can do as a Parish Council is bring people together. Organising sociable events, such as the Summer of Fun, offering parish grants to community groups, or rolling up our sleeves to spruce up the neighbourhood certainly keeps our small team busy, but with your help we can really make this a better place to live.

So what about next year's social events? Ruth Panther, who puts heart and soul into organising events from the parish office, says "Sadly, the Waterside Festival, which GLPC has supported for many years, will not take place but we plan to make next year's Community Fun Day bigger and better than ever!"

### Apple Day in Downs Barn...



### Why not join in the action?

If you have the odd hour to spare you might enjoy "Guerrilla Gardening". Enthusiast Bryan Lea, who has planted up the entrance to his street, says "It's not difficult, doesn't need much knowledge of gardening, and doesn't cost much either. All MK Council used

to do was spray it with weed-killer, but I used a few spare plants from my garden and bought a packet of seeds. Some people say how nice it looks, so I hope it encourages more people to have a go." Or how about bulb-planting? In Conniburrow, for example, "guerrilla gardeners" recently helped Simon, our busy Parish Ranger, plant a thousand bulbs in just three hours! Look out for crocuses, daffodils and snowdrops next spring.



Ponds are another priority. Apart from the ones in parkland, did you know we have over 15 ponds in local estates? Without regular care they easily get choked up and treasured pond life disappears. This is a problem at Giffard Park, where a once lovely pond is in urgent need of help (see page 7).

"Volunteering is a great way to tackle problems in your area, but you also get a sense of achievement, and the chance to meet other people," says Eirwen Tagg, Parish Manager. "In one case this has led to a blossoming romance!"

Please consider joining our list of happy helpers. Just email the office or pop in for a chat.



# Downs Barn decision

## Marsh Drive To Expand

It may be a great open space but GLPC has decided not to take over the Downs Barn sports pavilion and grounds from MK Council. **Why?** Read on...



Interview with Councillor David Stabler and Parish Manager Eirwen Tagg by Linda Inoki.

**Q.** Why did you finally decide not to acquire Downs Barn pavilion for the parish?

**DS.** After a lot of research we concluded that the building is almost unusable. All accommodation is upstairs, there's a rickety staircase, no lift and inadequate changing rooms and toilets. The second reason is that MK Council have done nothing with it for the last 10 years. It needs a lot of money to bring the building up to standard and the sports grounds need drainage. So you're talking in excess of £150k, plus the annual ground maintenance costs, and we don't have the funds.

**Q.** So it's not a community asset transfer, it's a community liability transfer?

**DS.** In this case, yes!

**Q.** What about finding funding through a partner?

**DS.** A well-known charity was very interested, but the Council wouldn't hear of it, even a not-for-profit organisation.

**ET.** In the end, legal caveats blew that deal because the partners we found weren't sports groups. It had to be another sports organisation. But 'like for like' doesn't pay!

**DS.** Then we tried to do a deal with CleanSlate, a Christian football group. That went on swimmingly until we got the refurbishment costs. It was a big disappointment.

**Q.** Are you frustrated by the result?

**ET.** Very, because as far as we know MK Council will have to leave it as is, with the pavilion closed.

**DS.** The MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) is a great loss. It was refurbished about five years ago and it's just going to deteriorate now because nobody's going to look after it.

**ET.** It's a pity because anybody can go there and play basketball, tennis, or football...

**DS.** We even do motorcycle training courses there.

**Q.** So now the fate of Downs Barn is in the hands of MKC. What about the youth club?

**ET.** MKC provide the staff, and we subsidised the youth club for a long time. Unfortunately it had to finish because there's nowhere else for them to go.

**Q.** What about the Summer of Fun? Will you still be running events at Downs Barn?

**DS.** Yes, as long as MK Council make the space available.

**Q.** You've been talking about creating 'community satellites' around the parish, but by pulling out of Downs Barn aren't you abandoning the area?

**DS.** You could argue that, but there's an excellent facility in Conniburrow which serves Downs Barn too, with sports grounds and meeting rooms. It doesn't belong to the Parish Council but it's still there for local people.

**Q.** Where will you focus your efforts now?

**DS.** On Marsh Drive. Fortunately that Community Asset Transfer was viable, so now we own the freehold. It needs upgrading but we've got some Section 106 funds to start with and will apply for more grants. It might be possible to add a community hall, some all-weather practice facilities, a bar, kitchen or even a community café. It depends on what the community wants, and how much funding we can raise.

**Q.** But isn't Marsh Drive mainly for people living in Great Linford?

**ET.** No, people from all over the parish use it. There are several cricket clubs, a large football club, and a tennis club with over 200 members. Also, it's handy for all the new homes in Redhouse and Oakridge Park. Marsh Drive is the only sports facility in the north east corner of MK, so improving it will cater for all our residents, both as a sports and community centre.

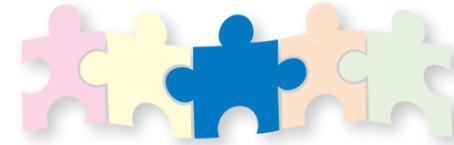
TOP: Marsh Drive to expand. ABOVE: Downs Barn games area during Summer of Fun. BOTTOM: Football at Marsh Drive. Photos by David Stabler

## your 'pull-out-and-keep' guide

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

# THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Your community, your future, your say!



Neighbourhood planning is a complex process but can be broken down into three stages:

1. Consultation with local residents
2. Drafting and refining the resulting plan
3. Referendum to adopt or reject the final plan

At every step it is the residents who define the contents of the plan. We are now at stage two in the process, and should reach the final stage, the referendum, in 2015.

When the first stages have been done properly residents usually vote 'yes' to the plan. If that happens here, MK Council will then officially adopt the plan. As a high-level set of planning policies, it will influence the type of development that comes forward and also help MK Council's planning committee decide which planning applications to approve or refuse.

### So what is happening now, in stage two?

We have distilled the results of the consultation into key points. An experienced planning consultant, Nick Fenwick, will use these to write a draft plan, wherever the community's aspirations fit with local and national policies. The draft plan goes back to the community for further refinement.

Next, an independent examiner runs the complete plan through technical checks then it goes to referendum.

Naturally, we will keep you well informed at every stage. After all, you, the residents, are the most important people in the process!

## Issues & Ideas

Thanks to everyone who took part in the consultation. There was huge support for the area's landscapes and wildlife habitats, which people said add to the enjoyment of life in the parish and MK as a whole, and should be protected.

Other wishes ranged from more activity centres for older residents to beautifying our roundabouts! Here are the key issues, all of which will either go into the Neighbourhood Plan or, if more appropriate, onto GLPC's 'to do' list.

### Housing

To keep the area a pleasant place to live green spaces should not be used for housing. Any new housing should:

- use brownfield sites
- regenerate existing housing
- use 'infill' land where views would be preserved.

New housing must have enough shops, schools, parking etc.

Too many HMOs in Conniburrow is a problem; more should be resisted or better managed via regulations.

BELOW: Spaces for people and wildlife. Photos by Tony Bedford. ABOVE RIGHT: Photo by Simon Bates



### Shops & Services



Most people had enough shops and services such as clinics within easy reach except for Conniburrow, Blakelands, Redhouse Park and Willen Park.

Local centres, especially Great Linford, should be more useful and welcoming.

Continued over

3 Sports & Leisure

- Most people satisfied but more indoor sports facilities welcome.
- New or improved community centres especially for elderly.

4 Wellbeing & Open Spaces

- Massive support for open spaces and parkland.
- Maintenance could be improved.
- Maybe new café or drop-in centre on leisure route eg canal or near open spaces in Conniburrow could lift area economically and socially.

5 Getting Around

- Easy getting around. Good road and redway links.
- Localised issues are traffic speed, "rat runs", parking outside schools, patchy bus services.
- Better public transport needed for Conniburrow, Bolbeck Park, Giffard Park, Redhouse Park and Willen Park.
- New developments must have good access and off-street parking. They cannot use existing spaces.



6 Business Opportunities & Employment

- Local job opportunities pretty good.
- Strong support for community enterprises that benefit local people.
- GLPC to help promote local business via advertising, collaboration, communications.

7 Education and learning

- More adult education and skills training facilities welcome.
- Some long journeys to school due to catchment areas.

8 Heritage & Arts

- Strong support for protecting and improving places of historic interest.
- Good arts facilities in Great Linford but could be better used.
- A lot of interest in works of art on roundabouts.



# A FRAMEWORK for open space and homes

The Neighbourhood Plan got off to a good start with people from all over the parish completing the questionnaire. Now, as the plan enters its next phase, Keith Panes, chair of the Parish Council, takes stock.

**Q: Is everything going 'to plan' or are you dealing with any controversial issues?**

*Keith: Residents want to protect our open spaces, and yet we know the examiner won't let the plan through unless we identify areas where housing could go. But there are other bits of land that are not designated open space, and they could be identified in the plan as something that, given the right opportunity, could be used.*

**Q: Can't you just say no, this parish is full. Build new houses in the expansion areas around MK?**

*Keith: When the government started neighbourhood planning they said that it cannot be used to stop housing development. The biggest challenge for us is to get that balance right in the plan.*

**Q: What about MK Council, aren't they looking for housing sites too?**

*Keith: Yes, MK Council is looking for additional housing sites in order to meet its targets. It's not a huge amount; 781 new homes up to 2026 but only 159 in the 'urban area'. There isn't much on their site allocations plan in our parish; for example the Great Linford paddocks are not on the list. But with or without a list, there is always opportunist development, and neighbourhood planning is a way to shape that. The point is if we, as a community, don't identify potential sites, somebody else will; and chances are we won't like it.*



**Q: So the message is 'expect the unexpected'.**

*Keith: Absolutely, and I'll give you a good example; Linford Lakes! It's an opportunistic development. It's not on any plan as a housing site but the landowner is in talks with the Parks Trust and Barratts. Also, although it's outside our parish, it would have a significant impact on the roads, shops, schools and surgeries that our residents use.*

**Q: What about inside the parish?**

*Keith: Downs Barn is another example. If MK Council decide that no-one's using the sports pavilion they might think 'we may as well develop it'.*

**Q: Will you have to trade off one thing against another?**

*Keith: What you can't do in the plan is to say 'you can sell that off to pay for this'. It's important to remember that the plan is not about solving detailed problems. The Plan is a community-wide framework for changes that are heading our way in the next 15 years.*

TOP LEFT: Photo by Freewheelers. BOTTOM LEFT: MK Arts Centre  
ABOVE: Tongwell Lake. Paddocks 'not on the list'. Photos by David Stabler

# LOCAL CENTRES: The Good, The Bad and The Non-Existent



ABOVE: Nice homes, shame about the shops! Redhouse Park. Photo by David Stabler.

BELOW: Neath Hill local centre. Photo courtesy Caroline Brown.

Milton Keynes was originally designed so that everyone lived in easy reach of green spaces and amenities, including a local centre. Typically these included a fish and chip shop, chemists and pub! While times have changed, local centres still play an important role, both as handy places to shop, and as places to meet the neighbours. Indeed, this is why GLPC has its offices in Neath Hill, in the hub of the community.

Unfortunately, new housing estates such as Redhouse Park were built without local centres. This means more car journeys, more isolation, and more pressure on existing facilities. As we plan for the next 15 years, we have to make our local centres more attractive, useful places, especially when shopping habits are changing and customers are turning away from big 'Tesco-like' stores.

Tony Bedford, who has lived in Giffard Park for nearly 30 years, knows the problem well. Until recently Tony was working for GLPC as project officer on the Neighbourhood Plan. Now, he has become a Parish Councillor, so his work continues as a volunteer!

"Three issues came out of the consultation on local centres. People said they were looking tired and unwelcoming. There wasn't enough choice. And there were too many fast food outlets. Overall people wanted a better range of facilities, but not more pubs."

Conniburrow is a typical example of the challenge ahead. As it was built right next to the city centre, the planners expected people to use CMK as both their district and local centre. For a while it worked. CMK had a Doctor's surgery and national supermarkets as well as independent shops.

However these days it is full of fashions, cafés and leisure destinations. To make matters worse, Sainsbury's left the Food Centre and Waitrose decamped to a new housing estate, leaving only the market and Marks and Spencer for fresh food. Having a Londis in Downs Barn and the odd speciality shop in Conniburrow is not enough to fill the gap. "If someone wants to pop in for a loaf of bread, or do their basic shopping, the city centre is hopeless. So people in Conniburrow, which is one of the lowest car-owning areas in MK, have a real issue, because they haven't got a local centre anymore," says Tony.

**How can the Neighbourhood Plan help?**

"The Neighbourhood Plan cannot make things happen, but it can make it easier for things to happen," says GLPC chair, Keith Panes. "We can't say 'there will be a café or mini-supermarket built here'. All we can say is, if there's an opportunity for development, this is the kind of thing people want, because it will really help our community," says Tony.



Your community,  
your future, your say!

# MAKE IT LOCAL AND GET VOCAL!

By Nick Fenwick

GLPC has now retained Nick Fenwick, a Chartered Town Planner, to work on the draft plan. As former head of planning at MK Council he has a lot of experience both in plan making and in decision making over planning applications.

If we think about it 'planning' is one area of life that affects everyone! The results of decision making are all around us. Decisions about the provision of schools, further education, employment, shopping, leisure, health facilities, recreation and the way we move about Milton Keynes have a real impact on our quality of life.

Usually we become involved in planning when a planning application is submitted that potentially affects us. One of my biggest frustrations is seeing cases where it is often too late to change the outcome as decisions have to be made in accordance with current local and national policies. I have seen many people disappointed and angry as they feel the planning committee has not listened, or when the decision fails to go the way they expected. Although committees *do* listen, they have to permit or refuse a planning application based on relevant policies in force at the time, and naturally these need updating to reflect changing needs.

There has always been an opportunity to get involved in making new plans and policies but few people do so. I have seen many empty rooms where just a few people come along to a consultation, even though the whole community has been invited to help shape the future of their area.

The good news is that Milton Keynes Council is currently consulting on Plan:MK (the next major policy plan for the whole of Milton Keynes) and, at the very local level, GLPC's neighbourhood plan is well

underway. This is just one of several neighbourhood plans across the borough, including plans for CMK, Woburn Sands and Wolverton.

Localism is very important as, for the first time in history, a neighbourhood plan will now have legal status once approved. Neighbourhood plans will help shape the wider plan for the whole of MK but more importantly they have to be taken into account when local planning applications are decided. So, if you want to shape your future, please do not miss this opportunity. Their key message is 'make it local and get vocal'.

Please come along to the next round of consultations and read the draft plan. Drop-in public consultations:

- **Tuesday 17th February 2015 – 2pm-8pm**  
Parish Office, Tower Crescent, Neath Hill MK14 6JY
- **Wednesday 18th February 2015 – 2pm-8pm**  
Giffard Park Community Centre, Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park MK14 5PY
- **Thursday 19th February 2015 – 2pm-8pm**  
Salvation Army Hall, Ramsons Avenue, Conniburrow MK14 7BA
- **Saturday 21st February 2015 – 10am-4pm**  
Cross & Stable Church Hall, Saddlers Place, Downs Barn MK14 7RZ

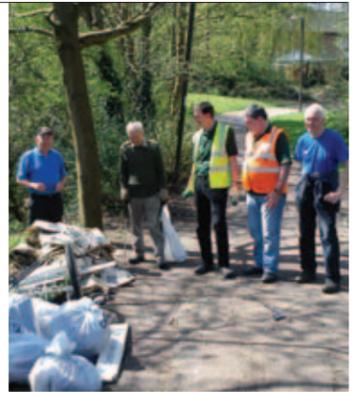
Plus regular updates on GLPC website [www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)

BELOW LEFT: Good planning; good quality of life. BELOW RIGHT: Public consultations – were you there? Photos by David Stabler.



# PARISH GUARDIANS

Don't get annoyed. Get active!



Why would anyone volunteer to pick up litter, trim hedgerows, or report broken street lights? Simple, according to Parish Guardians Lynda Feeley and Eddie Thompson; because they cannot stand to see their neighbourhood going downhill. But what starts in anger often ends with a smile. Eddie is brimming with funny stories about his regular patrols round Conniburrow pond. While Lynda's grandchildren "absolutely love it!" when they go out pouncing on litter flying round Bolbeck Park. Eddie became a Great Linford Parish Guardian three years ago when a Parish Councillor spotted him picking up litter and swept him off to meet the Neighbourhood Action Group. Good move! Since then Eddie has pulled six bicycles out of the pond, passed on a valuable set of fly-tipped china to a charity shop, and recycled countless cans of beer. "The bin-men must think I'm an alcoholic!" he laughs.

Being a Parish Guardian can be sociable too. Last year, Eddie won a civic award and was invited to the Mayor's annual dinner (see photo).



More typically, however, he joins in group tidy-up days, has got to know local police officers, and has interesting chats with neighbours from Poland, Somalia and all over the place. "Once I came across a smartly dressed man crouching down among the trees and to my surprise he was taking drugs. He was very apologetic and promised to take his needles home," says Eddie.

How do people react when they see him dealing with litter? "Some people look at me as if I'm undergoing some sort of punishment, but mostly they say 'thanks, it's good of you to do this', even though they might be the ones scattering the litter in the first place!"

So isn't it just a continual battle against modern attitudes? Lynda, like many others, wishes society was more caring, but she won't give up. "I can't physically get involved with dredging ponds or the bigger jobs, but we've all got to do our little bit to help. When I go out with the grandchildren and they're picking up litter they say 'aren't they naughty doing this?' As adults, we can't keep passing the buck or leave everything to the schools."

If you want to help improve your neighbourhood, please contact the parish office to find out more about being a Parish Guardian. Simon, our friendly Parish Ranger, will give you equipment and a briefing at the parish office, with tea and biscuits too.

ABOVE & FAR LEFT: Come rain or shine, Eddie Thompson is out on patrol. LEFT CENTRE: Lynda Feeley, centre, in pink jacket with a group litter-haul. LEFT: Eddie and wife Enid at the Mayor's award ceremony. Photos by Simon Bates

## Sign Watch

It's pretty obvious that street names, highway or redway signs should be easy to read, especially near schools or wherever safety is involved. However too many signs are being covered up by overhanging trees, un-trimmed foliage or plain old dirt! Councillors have reported many missing, dirty or obscured signs but we need your help.

The Parish Council is starting a new "Sign-Watch" scheme, to make sure that we hear about signs that need attention without delay. Our busy Parish Ranger, Simon Bates, often cleans street name plates or cuts back foliage when he is out on his regular rounds. But this is a large parish, covering over nine square miles, so we need local residents to look

out for hard-to-see, missing or dirty direction signs or street nameplates. We will then urge MK Council or the Parks Trust to take action as soon as possible. You could also help out by cleaning the one at the end of your street (just keep safety in mind and watch out for traffic).

During the dark winter days, it is even more important to keep cyclists, pedestrians and drivers safe. So please "sign up" to Sign-Watch without delay. Simply phone or email the parish office on 01908 606613 or email [admin@great-linford.gov.uk](mailto:admin@great-linford.gov.uk) and don't forget to tell us exactly where it is. Thank you!

LEFT: Before and after. Photos by Simon Bates



# news&views

why not send us your news & views?

## TREES SAVED AT LINFORD LAKES – FOR NOW

Conservationists have welcomed a move by MK Council to issue an ‘emergency’ Tree Preservation Order on all the open countryside at Linford Lakes which Barratt Homes are keen to develop. This makes it an offence to cut down any tree or shrub.

Objectors say that the marshy area is unsuitable for housing which will have a devastating impact on a rich eco-system that includes rare birds and mammals. However Barratt’s agent, DLP, says the Tree Preservation Order is a standard procedure, pending a survey. “This work is being undertaken by specialist tree

consultants and landscape architects who are working with the Council’s own Tree Officer to establish the condition/value of trees on site,” says Simon James, Managing Director of DLP. After MK Council identifies the most important trees, the planning committee will then decide whether to protect them with a permanent Tree Preservation Order.

MK Council has included Linford Lakes in their latest list of possible sites for new housing. Although its initial view is that the site is not suitable, due to flooding and ecology, DLP has told North by NorthEast that “a planning application is in the early stages of preparation”. This will take into account the results

of detailed studies currently underway on “landscape, ecology, arboriculture, engineering and hydrology/ flood-risk, transportation and highways” and show how any potential problems could be dealt with.

“Yes, we need more affordable homes,” says Tony Bedford, chair of Friends of Hanson Environmental Centre, “but building £1m houses on the edge of Linford Lakes and cramming flats on top of Wolverton Road is not the answer. Linford Lakes is the equivalent of our green belt. As MK keeps expanding we’ve got to have space to breathe.”



Leafy Linford Lakes. Photo by Tony Bedford

## Refreshing the Rhino

Four years after local schoolchildren came up with winning designs for refreshing the rhinoceros in Downhead Park it has finally been transformed.



Photo by David Stabler

The artist, Neal Kean, has turned the dull grey creature into a colourful feature. Let’s hope the rhino’s bight new look will encourage children to play in the park. The play area is just by the canal path, over the bridge from the popular Camphill Café.

.....

We welcome your views. Please send your letters to:

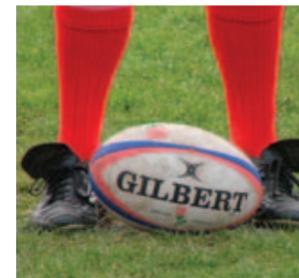
### POST

Parish Council Offices  
10 Tower Crescent  
Neath Hill Local Centre  
Neath Hill  
MK14 6JY

### EMAIL

parish.manager@  
great-linford.gov.uk

## RUGBY WORLD CUP KICKS OFF!



Milton Keynes was one of 13 places chosen to host the Rugby World Cup 2015 after a successful bid by MK Council, MK Dons and others.

To mark the event, special rugby posts have already arrived at the Marsh Drive sports grounds in Great Linford. The “Posts in the Park” scheme is part of the Rugby Football Union’s plans to broaden the appeal of rugby, improve facilities and encourage more people to join in this fast-paced sport.

Pete Winkelman, Chairman of MK Dons and a well-known resident of the parish, says, “Having rugby posts in unexpected places should get people talking about the game. There are some really exciting things in the pipeline as the Rugby World Cup 2015 comes to Milton Keynes. We want young people in particular to feel inspired and hopefully they’ll want to have a go themselves.”

“With support from Bletchley Rugby Club we will have a great time improving fitness for

local adults and youngsters,” says Eirwen Tagg, Parish Manager. “It will be a brilliant warm up before the World Cup starts in earnest.”

To find out more about playing various types of rugby locally go to [www.rfu.com/takingpart](http://www.rfu.com/takingpart) or [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/sportsclubs](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/sportsclubs)

You can also receive ticket updates and register your interest in volunteering at the event via [www.rugbyworldcup.com/frontrow](http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/frontrow)

.....

## St. Andrew’s Remembers

By Jennifer Foskett



Towards the end of last year, and in anticipation of the nationwide commemorations in August 2014 of the outbreak of the First World War, a group from St. Andrew’s Church, Great Linford, began researching the individual stories of the eleven men named on the church’s war memorial plaque. The memorial had always been the focus of the congregation’s annual Remembrance Day services but little was known about those men, all of whom

came from the village and surrounding countryside.

Detailed work started on the project in early 2014 and has resulted in a 68-page full colour booklet called “St. Andrew’s Remembers”. Not only is it full of information about the war and the men from Great Linford who went off to fight, it puts across a real sense of the community living there at the time, mainly drawn from local press articles, photographs, and information from parish and census records of the period.

At around the same time, a Roll of Honour triptych containing 100 names of local men who had fought in WW1 was found languishing in a corner of the church in rather poor condition. Great Linford Parish Council approved a grant towards the cost of restoring the triptych and the surplus went towards printing the booklet. The booklet costs £8.00. Please contact the project volunteers to find out more or order your copy via [greatlinford@googlemail.com](mailto:greatlinford@googlemail.com)



Gt Linford village c. 1914

## GIFFARD PARK POND

Choked with algae, overhanging trees, and gasping for oxygen: no wonder people are just as upset about the state of Broadway Avenue pond as are the critters that call it their home. Fortunately, a small group of Giffard Park residents are determined to restore the pond to its former beauty (see photo, taken four years ago). They have been busy clearing the overgrown edges, and are

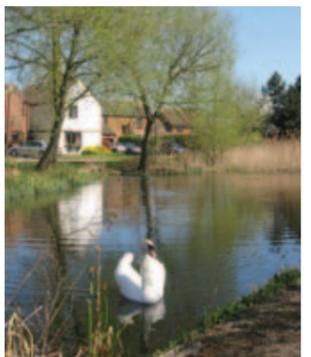


Photo by David Stabler

now working with MK Council to put the group on a formal footing.

“We are planning a public meeting in mid-February, before the growing season starts, to keep things progressing,” says Parish Councillor Peter Widdowson, who lives nearby and is actively involved. This formal arrangement will help with a new, regular maintenance routine, which is essential to keep the pond fresh and healthy.

# and finally...

## Local events to look out for

### NEW - COFFEE AT ST ANDREW'S

Nestled in the heart of the Great Linford parklands is the friendly church of St Andrew's.

On the first Wednesday of every month the church is open at 10am for anyone who wishes to take Holy Communion. Afterwards, it now stays open until 1pm so whether you are just passing by, or have just woken up, you are welcome to pop in for a coffee. Parents with young children, dog-walkers, happy or



Photo by David Stabler

troubled; everyone is welcome to this special place. There is sure to be something for people of all faiths, or none, to discover in a stroll round this historic 12th century building.

Free coffee is available and a friend of the church is there to greet you.

For further information, ring Deirdre Hall on 01908 606963.

### PONDS THIS WINTER

Winter is the best time to tidy up ponds, while most plants and wildlife are dormant.



Photo © Mark Coster

Peartree Pond is being restored with help from a new parish grant and dedicated volunteers, but why not help one of the ponds near you? Everyone who joins in our

supervised pond days says it is satisfying and fun. Just a few hours' work, with a team of like-minded volunteers, can make a huge difference to wildlife and improve the look of your neighbourhood too.

Please check the website for upcoming pond dates, *plus*, Thames Valley Police anti-theft marking for bicycles on 11 Jan at Neath Hill local centre, guerrilla gardening at Marsh Drive in February, Redhouse Park tidy up day in spring and many more.

### IN APRIL:

The Flea Road Show is a new event, as fleas and ticks are a growing problem for pets and their owners.



GLPC will be raising awareness with help from Willow Vets, and at the same time covering the problem of dog fouling. Wrapping up dog poo in a more attractive bundle – so to speak!

### DROP-IN PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**Tuesday 17th February 2015 – 2pm-8pm**  
Parish Office, Tower Crescent, Neath Hill MK14 6JY

**Wednesday 18th February 2015 – 2pm-8pm**  
Giffard Park Community Centre, Broadway Avenue, Giffard Park MK14 5PY

**Thursday 19th February 2015 – 2pm-8pm**  
Salvation Army Hall, Ramsons Avenue, Conniburrow MK14 7BA

**Saturday 21st February 2015 – 10am-4pm**  
Cross & Stable Church Hall, Saddlers Place, Downs Barn MK14 7RZ

For an updated calendar of events please visit the website [www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)

don't forget...

Draft Neighbourhood Plan available on GLPC website

19 Jan – 1 Mar 2015



[www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)

North by North East: published by Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC), is not affiliated with any other group or organisation, whether political, religious or otherwise. The opinions in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of GLPC. All reasonable attempts have been made to clear copyright before publication. Contact GLPC on 01908 606613 or via the website at [www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk). GLPC Councillors voted not to receive payment for the time they commit to Council affairs.

Designed and printed by Eagle Graphics (Printers) Ltd, Unit 1 Firbank Court, Firbank Way, Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 4YJ. For any print enquiries please telephone: 01525 384893 or visit [www.egp.uk.com](http://www.egp.uk.com)