

North**by** North**East**



News from your Parish Council

www.great-linford.gov.uk

Artisan feasts and treats



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

contacts

GLPC Parish Councillors, the wards they represent and their contact details.

Conniburrow

Maureen Windridge 01908 606613
maureen.windridge@great-linford.gov.uk
2 Vacancies

Downhead Park & Willen Park North

Michael Dean 07756 500875
michael.dean@great-linford.gov.uk
Vacancy

Downs Barn

Janet Maclean 01908 606613
janet.maclean@great-linford.gov.uk
Vacancy

Giffard Park & Blakelands

Tony Bedford 01908 606613
tony.bedford@great-linford.gov.uk
Keith Panes 07921 240447
keith.panes@great-linford.gov.uk
Peter Widdowson 01908 617078
peter.widdowson@great-linford.gov.uk

Great Linford

Ian Foskett 01908 606613
ian.foskett@great-linford.gov.uk
Patricia Lawar 07958 575050
patricia.lawar@great-linford.gov.uk
Cecil Macaulay 01908 231027
cecil.macaulay@great-linford.gov.uk
Charles Omole 07958 507073
charles.omole@great-linford.gov.uk

Neath Hill

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

Pennyland & Bolbeck Park

2 Vacancies

Redhouse Park

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

Willen Park South

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



Great Locality
Proud Community

winter 2016

comment

50 years young!

In 2017 I will share a major celebration with Milton Keynes - I too will be 50 years young. Both of us have gone through a lot of challenges but, even if I say so myself, we are not looking too bad for 50!

I am a relative newcomer, having arrived in MK in 1993. However as Parish Manager I have enjoyed meeting many people who were 'pioneers', and either came here to make a new life or were actually instrumental in creating the new city.

Some were also 'natives', who as village children had to meet the cattle at the station in Newport Pagnell and walk them over to Haversham. Some were born on farms where now there is a Tesco or international company HQ. Interestingly, not everyone regrets it. Some of those people have told me how their life was enriched by the new garden city with its ambitious outlook and influx of new people. How the new-found prosperity, choice and diversity brought a different dimension to their lives; how families who had been in one place for centuries ventured outside the old boundaries.

Change can be exciting, uncomfortable or both! Yet it is constant and MK is a great place to live for people who still try to make every change a change for the better.

Whether you are five or fifty, memories are important and we would love to hear from you about special memories of your time in Milton Keynes. To get you started, please see the back page which features a few photos from the archives.



Eirwen Tagg
Parish Manager

www.great-linford.gov.uk

Parish Manager

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

Parish Council Office

Great Linford House, 1 St Leger Court,
Great Linford MK14 5HA Tel: 01908 606613

North by NorthEast

Editor: Linda Inoki

Front Cover:

Courtesy of Coldsmoking

feature

FRAGRANT FEASTS AND TREATS

By Linda Inoki

The first food festival at Great Linford Manor Park in September was a great success, attracting around three thousand people. As well as discovering all sorts of local food, from falafels to fudge, it was a chance to meet the producers too.

The festival was a labour of love organised by three local people: Hazel Roberts, an award-winning jam-maker, cider-maker Laurence Conisbee and Turan Turan, a retired fireman who just loves playing with smoke!

After tasting samples at the festival I had to know more, so on a misty morning I knocked on Turan's door, in the 18th C pavilion in Manor Park, and entered the fragrant world of wood-smoke.

Turan opened Coldsmoking here two years ago, but his love of cooking began as a child. "When we went on family holidays it was quite normal for a ten-year old to prepare artichokes or to bone lamb for koftas," he says. "But I only got into smoking a few years ago because my father, who is Turkish, kept moaning that he couldn't find any decent smoked salmon!" It seems that most mass-produced 'smoked' foods are drenched with synthetic flavours but Turan experimented with natural products, built his own smoker and quickly realised lots of other people wanted to taste the real thing too.

He has now published two cookery books, trains professional chefs and runs popular courses in how to produce healthy, delicious smoked fish, meat, cheese and vegetables in Great Linford. The kitchen is warm, spotless and has lovely views over the park.

"One of our most popular courses is sausage-making," says Turan, showing me some home-made salami hanging in a special refrigerator. Opening another fridge, he pulls out the cured leg of a rare breed pig, complete with trotter, which is slowly turning into prosciutto.

Wherever possible Turan uses local products, and this is the same philosophy that inspires his new neighbour, Alissa Pemberton, founder of Forest and Folk Botanicals.

The shop is gently perfumed with lavender, geranium, cinnamon and all sorts of natural ingredients that capture the power of plants. Alissa started Forest and Folk because she was interested in small scale production, and, as she puts it, "tracing products from seed to bottle, and creating more of a community around the process".

Like Turan, she was grateful for the support of the MK Arts Centre, which, with its workshops in the courtyard, creates a very different atmosphere to the average High Street. With the help of friends, and interested customers, Alissa has rescued a neglected garden next to the alms-houses and planted it with herbs. "The soil is very good as it's been tended for centuries. It's full of wildlife, and we've found lots of clay pipes and even an old brooch," says Alissa, showing me round the garden.

That's one of the pleasant things about supporting local artisans. Everything has a story; whether it's bacon from local farms, or rosehip syrup from the hedgerows of Milton Keynes. And it's a story which artisans like this are writing carefully, and together, with customers and friends.

Coldsmoking offer gift certificates and courses in sausage making, food smoking and charcuterie from £65, plus books, woodchips etc www.coldsmoking.co.uk

Forest and Folk Botanicals sell natural soap, floral vinegar, raw chocolate, honey, dried herbs and spices, shampoo, household cleaners and more. To reduce waste you can also bring your own containers and buy in small quantities. www.forestandfolk.co.uk

17 Dec, 1.00 - 3.00, Forest & Folk Christmas shopping event, with Wooden Spoon Bakery. MK Arts Centre courtyard, off Parklands, Great Linford, MK14 5DZ

Jam Moo Kow produces jams and chutneys, including Plum and Cinnamon and Golden Raspberry. Find on Facebook or email enquiries@jammk.co.uk

Virtual Orchard, based in Wolverton, produces cider and apple brandy from local apples and honey. virtualorchard.co.uk



BELOW: Alissa Pemberton, Forest and Folk Botanicals. CENTRE: Sweet treats by Hazel Roberts, Jam Moo Kow. RIGHT: Turan Turan, Coldsmoking

CITIZENS:

lend us your ears – and eyes!

The parish continues to suffer from antisocial behaviour and we need to gather more information on the miscreants in order to reduce it. Please, without putting yourselves at risk, let the parish office know of any information you have about these incidents so we can nip more problems in the bud.

A particular 'hotspot' concerns a spate of vandalism at the Marsh Drive sports pavilion. This unacceptable behaviour distresses users, costs money to replace broken fittings, and could even lead to a fire since the vandals use the pavilion to smoke in too.

Dog-fouling is another problem, yet people who let their dogs foul the paths and green spaces often respond to a friendly reminder that it is easy to change their ways. There

are many dog bins around the parish, which GLPC has installed, and we also pay to have them emptied every Thursday evening. Poo bags can be purchased cheaply at the parish office and, if dog-walkers prefer, they can put them in the black refuse sacks which MK Council collects every week.

Another key concern is about people who dump or smash glass bottles in the playparks. This is a real danger to children so if you see a group of people hanging about having a drinking session please pick up the phone.

Similarly, people who decide to take drugs where children play, or in wooded areas, often leave dangerous material for innocent people to stumble upon. Simon, our Parish Ranger, spends a lot of time dealing with litter in general but he gets particularly



upset when he finds needles and other rubbish lying about which endangers our children and wildlife.

In all of these cases the Parish Ranger either deals with the problem on the spot or arranges for remedial action. But he needs your help. If more good citizens report these incidents and help us to identify the culprits we will be able to bear down on antisocial behaviour.

So please keep your eyes and ears open and together let's keep the parish a GLPC – a "Great Locality and Proud Community!"

Telephone GLPC on 01908 606613.

ABOVE: Broken doors and fences, photos by Simon Bates

are the services that your MKC councillors have chosen to deliver using a combination of Government funding and local Council Tax. The Government is reducing the amount of money it gives to local councils and is also restricting the rate at which council taxes can be increased. As a growing city, with a high birth rate and more elderly people needing care, Milton Keynes faces steeply increasing demands. The result is that MKC has to consider cutting back the non-statutory services that it currently delivers.

MKC has suggested that parish councils take over responsibility for some services. However parish council budgets are very small compared to that of the borough council and parish employees do not have the range or depth of expertise that MKC can muster. Although piecemeal legislation, enacted over the last century, gives parish councils "powers" to provide a wide range of services the reality is that none of these

can be delivered without proper funding. If GLPC were to take over some of these services, such as maintaining the open spaces, play parks or community facilities, it would mean a substantial increase to the parish precept (that part of the council tax that the parish levies off households). In the coming months, the Parish Council has to set a budget for the next financial year as well as preparing for subsequent years. We wish to do this based on an understanding of the views of you, our parishioners.

There are no firm proposals from MKC as yet, but we expect more to be revealed as MKC prepares its budget. We also expect that a useful discussion will be possible with residents at the Annual Parish meeting next May. We hope to inform you of progress in the next issue of North by NorthEast. Please be ready to let us know your views at the Annual meeting.

PAY

or take it away?

By Councillor Peter Widdowson

There are some difficult choices heading our way about what kind of local services we want to maintain as a community, who will manage them, and how much we are all prepared to pay. Some of the services that Milton Keynes Council (MKC) delivers are legal (or statutory) requirements while others are optional (non-statutory). These



WHY FEED THE CROWS when your green bin is hungry?

Milton Keynes might be a pioneer in recycling but a lot of people are still putting food waste into black sacks when it really belongs somewhere else. According to MK Council, only 25% of food waste goes into green bins. The rest goes into black sacks, meaning they are full of leftover meat, fish, bones, pizzas and so on. No wonder bin-day is a bonanza for our local magpies and crows! To them, the leftovers smell like carrion, their natural food source, which is why they attack black bags as soon as they appear on bin-day.

Nobody likes this yucky mess scattered along the road, but the solution is easy. Use your green bin instead. It's not only for grass cuttings and vegetable peelings: it happily swallows up old sausages and mouldy cheese too!

Another big advantage of recycling your food waste is that it helps to reduce global warming. When food waste goes into black bags, then landfill, it rots and produces methane; an extremely damaging greenhouse gas.

And it saves money too. Councils are penalised for sending too much rubbish to landfill sites so the more we recycle the more (in theory) we save on our Council tax.

So why don't more people use the green bins?

"Perhaps it's the 'yuck' factor", says Councillor David Stabler, "but if you put torn up newspaper or shredded paper in the bottom of the green bin it absorbs some of the gunk. And it's much better to turn it into compost for gardens and fields, rather than send it to landfill where it costs the earth."



Watch out neighbour!

Today, it might be a stolen bike. Tomorrow, it might be the contents of your car, broken into by thieves hanging about and quietly intercepting the signal from your remote control key. Crime may be changing, but if neighbours keep an eye out for suspicious behaviour they can really make a difference to daily life.

Neighbourhood Watch had its origins in 1960's America, with the first UK group starting up in Cheshire in 1982. Now, it covers the whole of Britain and one of the newest schemes in this parish is, not surprisingly, on the newest estate!

Redhouse Park is a large community and Sandy Henry, one of the earliest residents to move in, is keen for more people to join in the local Neighbourhood Watch Group.

"All residents are welcome. Our members' aim is to make our community a safer place in which to live, by helping to reduce crime as well as the fear of crime. We

achieve this through greater vigilance, reporting suspicious incidents to the Co-ordinator and the Police, and sharing timely and appropriate information on Facebook, where we have our own group (RHP NHW). Helping each other, and occasionally getting together to discuss issues, also helps to build friendships and a strong community spirit," says Sandy.

As a still-growing development Redhouse Park needs more Street Co-ordinators. The Neighbourhood Watch group is a voluntary organisation, with free membership, and residents can contribute as much or as little time as they wish.

"With your help we can do even more, and make our group bigger, safer and friendlier," says Sandy.

If you would like to help, or wish for more information, please phone or email the Redhouse Park Neighbourhood Watch Area



Co-ordinator, Sandy Henry via 01908 614797 or a.henry913@btinternet.com. Alternatively you can email MKCommunity.WatchCoordinator@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

ABOVE: Photo by Heather Cecil

THE SHAPE OF MK TO COME

By Councillor David Stabler

"A mini Milton Keynes with up to 20,000 new homes, schools and shops could engulf villages and countryside to the north of the city"

Citizen, 4th August 2016.



Despite all the talk about expanding Milton Keynes beyond its current boundaries, lots of people read about plans for this new "daughter settlement" with surprise verging on disbelief. Yet it is true. Gallagher Estates, which describes itself as "one of the largest strategic land companies in the UK", is proposing this large settlement on the edge of our parish. The company is not a house builder but a "master developer" which, after winning planning permission and negotiating Section 106 contributions towards new roads, schools and so on, then sells on the value-added land to the actual builders.

This 'mini Milton Keynes' involves a massive chunk of land on the north ridge of the Great Ouse valley. It runs from Little Linford, through Haversham and reaches as far as Castlethorpe. Although it might be well away from your home, that does not mean it will not have a far-reaching impact.

Ward Councillors appear divided. One Councillor for the affected areas has vowed to fight Gallagher to preserve the peaceful nature of the villages and countryside. Whilst another, who does not represent the area, has welcomed the plan with open arms, saying it would address the housing shortage. In part, this is created by MK

Council's difficulty in identifying enough land to fill its existing target of some 1,750 dwellings a year.

On closer inspection, the proposal for 20,000 new homes with a population of perhaps 40,000 or more could create serious difficulties on the local road network. Two of the key roads across the Ouse Valley feed onto Wolverton Road in order to link up with the city's grid road system.

One comes down the very narrow road and bridges on Little Linford Lane and across the M1; all of which would have to be massively improved to cope with the extra traffic. The developer has proposed building a second central link, across the wide Great Ouse floodplain, and onto the Wolverton Road near the Black Horse pub.

Whilst nothing is certain, it is very probable that the additional traffic struggling to get into and out of Milton Keynes from Wolverton Road would overload V10 Brickhill Street, V8 Marlborough Street and V7 Saxon Street. This is something GLPC will have to respond to using the guiding principles the Parish Council has adopted for the Linford Lakes proposals, if the 'mini-MK' plans are taken further.

Photos courtesy of Haversham-cum-Little Linford



Housing sites and Linford Lakes

Countryside at risk

The saga of MK Council's search for extra housing sites has taken another turn. They have rejected all three sites in or next to this parish from the Site Allocations Plan including land at The Walnuts in Redhouse Park, Land off Little Linford Lane, and Land at Linford Lakes, off Wolverton Road. The lakes area was rejected because it is an area of open countryside, prone to heavy flooding, and rich in wildlife.

However, this has not stopped Templeview Developments from submitting an outline planning application to build houses on the 60-hectare site. The proposed development consists of two separate parcels of land; a residential area of 12.5 hectares for 250 two and three storey dwellings, including 62 available for social rent. The balance of the land would be given to the Parks Trust as an extension to the Ouse Valley Park.

Although the site lies within the Parish of Haversham and Little Linford, it is on the northern boundary of this Parish. Since building here has a potential impact on GLPC residents and is, in our view, contrary to adopted planning policies, GLPC has filed comprehensive objections.

For their part, Templeview has filed a lengthy report arguing that, if MKC was minded to refuse planning permission, the current gap between its annual housing targets and numbers actually delivered means it would lose at a subsequent appeal. They argue that, "The development proposal is being progressed at a time when Milton Keynes Council cannot demonstrate a deliverable five year land supply and there is a need to identify additional housing land to address past rates of under delivery and meet future needs."

The draft Site Allocation Plan (SAP) plan has identified 21 sites allocated for residential use, providing sites for some 1,100 dwellings. Although the current 5 year deficit in land supply is only 479 dwellings this fluctuates; if developers delay building homes, for example, the gap widens.

"In other words, until MKC has adopted its SAP, and until developers have incentives to get on and build more of the 28,000 homes they already have planning permission for throughout

MK, the gap continues to widen. MKC has to keep finding more sites and accepting applications they might otherwise refuse, if they believe there is a risk they will lose at an expensive appeal. This puts local communities, both urban and rural, at risk from opportunistic development," says Councillor David Stabler, GLPC's lead on planning matters.

GLPC's objections cite conflict with many MKC planning policies, and refer to the guiding principles that GLPC adopted in March 2014 for the previous Barratt Homes development on the same site, including:

- New developments should not adversely impact on Great Linford Parish residents.
- New developments should take account of effects on current infrastructure and services and should not pose unacceptable strain on existing roads, schools, shops, doctor's surgeries etc.
- GLPC should oppose piecemeal, opportunistic development.
- GLPC should oppose any proposals that do not take account of the impact on the whole of Milton Keynes.
- New developments should be consistent with MK Planning Strategy.

A lot of Redhouse Park residents have also filed objections as has Welcome Break. All the information, reports, and public comments can be viewed on MKC's planning website by searching for application reference 16/02270.

Where next?

The process for adopting the draft Site Allocations Plan may not be completed for another year. After eight weeks' consultation it will be submitted to the Secretary of State before going to a public inquiry. Meanwhile, MKC is under pressure to determine all planning applications without undue delay. It looks as if the story of Linford Lakes has more chapters to unfold.

ABOVE: Oystercatchers at Linford Lakes, photo by Tony Bedford



TO THE MANOR REBORN

Among all the wonderful parks of Milton Keynes only one has historic ties to the 18th century landscape garden movement. This is Great Linford Manor Park, and fortunately the Parks Trust has been successful in its bid to win funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to develop restoration plans for this much-loved park. The award, of £321,000, will be used over the next 18 months to undertake specialist surveys of the park's heritage features. These include the 18th Century "mirror" ponds and the area to the north of the Manor House which was designed as a wilderness garden. The funding also enables the Trust to draw up plans to restore these features and improve the park's entrance points, pathways, signage and interpretation panels. Also, the Trust will be able to carry out more consultations about the park, run more activities and develop more opportunities for volunteers to become involved in its care and maintenance.

While researching the history of the park, the Parks Trust discovered that it may have been designed by Richard Woods, a contemporary of 'Capability' Brown, in the mid-18th century. Many of the park's features such as the ponds, the wilderness and the twin pavilion buildings framing the Manor are typical of the landscape garden movement of that time, giving the park a special historic character that is unique in Milton Keynes' extensive network of parks.

Phil Bowsher, the Parks Trust's Head of Landscape Strategy, says, "Our aim is to restore Great Linford Manor Park in a way that is sensitive to its history and its location in the heart of Great Linford. The park has a very special character which we want to conserve and enhance whilst also making it easier and more enjoyable to visit. As well as restoring the ponds and carrying out more planting, representative of its historic design, we want to provide

more paths, seating, a children's play area and improve the layout of the car parking areas so they function better. The HLF grant will enable us to work-up the plans and consult on our ideas so we can listen to what local people think about the park and how it should be restored and improved."

After carrying out the project development work the Parks Trust will submit its Stage 2 application to the HLF in 2018 for full funding for the restoration works. If that bid is successful, it is hoped the HLF will provide £3.1 million for the project to be implemented between 2018 and 2022.

If you have any questions about the project please contact Phil Bowsher at the Parks Trust on 01908 255394 or email p.bowsher@theparkstrust.com

Join the TOWPATH TEAM!

By Jacqui Flint



The Canal & River Trust looks after 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales which include hundreds of wildlife conservation areas and five World Heritage sites.

Volunteer Towpath Rangers are the friendly guardians of our local waterways, happy to chat to anyone who uses the towpaths; boaters, walkers, cyclists or anglers.

We are currently looking for Volunteer Towpath Rangers in Milton Keynes. You don't need any specialist knowledge; just flexibility, enthusiasm and the patience to talk to all the people who will want to talk to you!

If you would like to find out more, please visit our website www.canalrivertrust.org.uk or email jacqui.flint@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Activities may include:

- Regularly walking a stretch of the canal and being the public face of the Canal & River Trust
- Recording mooring sightings and uploading data online
- Supporting the contracts team to monitor frequency and quality of grass and tree cutting
- Carrying out simple environmental and wildlife surveys
- Surveying and maintaining signage
- Graffiti removal and litter-picking
- Working alongside staff, representing the Canal & River Trust at community and towpath events

GYOSEI ART TRAIL

ready for more?



The Gyosei Art Trail got off to a great start with an opening ceremony under clear blue skies in July.

"It's fantastic that people are coming from all over Milton Keynes to enjoy the trail, and, as expected, the Frog bench has become a favourite spot for selfies," says Ian Michie, chair of the MK Public Arts Trust, which has actively supported the project from start to finish.

Sadly, however, the frog doesn't have a name, so why not join our 'Name the Frog' competition and send us your ideas?

Lots of people are now asking GLPC if there will be any more. The short answer is – we hope so!

The Parish Council's project board has already started work on phase two, which is to extend the trail northwards into other communities and also southwards to link up with the wonderful collection of existing sculptures in Central Milton Keynes. A bonus is that we still have many good ideas originally suggested by local residents, including:

- A "flowering sculpture" created from bulbs
- A bird box sculpture
- A permanent plinth, so that artists can exhibit their work temporarily, adding an element of change to the trail
- More seating - with backboards painted by local artists
- More artworks on poles (like the metal dragonfly, which sits atop a recycled lamp-post!)
- Sculptures made from old canal hardware
- A Torii gate – an important symbol and feature of the Japanese landscape and a fitting entrance to the trail itself.



“Coming across a beautiful frog bench, with no explanation of why it's there, is a bit weird. Having said all that, the sculptures are brilliant and very fitting in the canal environment. **Merryl J**

Thanks for inviting me to do the flag waving at last Sunday's event. A genuine treat and honour. You are to be congratulated on a great addition to the arts scene in MK. **Bob Hill (former Commercial Director, MKDC)**

The murals are lovely, and the frog great craftsmanship. Have yet to detect the spider. **Corinna S**

The former push-chair which is now a marvellous dragon fly is first class. **Roger L**

I have just spent a very pleasant afternoon exploring the Art Trail on a bicycle along with four friends. **Stuart F**

The Mosaic is stunning - brilliant attention to detail. **Steve U**

If you are, or know of, a local artist who might be interested in helping to develop any of these ideas please do get in touch. Or if you or your business might like to get involved or help sponsor further work please contact GLPC.

To help you discover the Trail, look for the Gyosei Art Trail booklet on our website: <http://great-linford.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Gyosei-Art-Trail-Booklet-7-32233.pdf>

FROM TOP: Frog bench, photo by David Stabler. Owl mosaic, canalside bench, guest of honour Bob Hill at the opening ceremony, photos by Tony Bedford

why not send us your news & views?

We welcome your views.
Please send your letters to:

POST

Parish Council Offices
Great Linford House
1 St Leger Court
Great Linford
MK14 5HA

EMAIL

parish.manager@
great-linford.gov.uk

FENCED OUT IN DOWNS BARN

As reported in the last issue, Downs Barn residents were shocked to wake up and find a 6ft high fence going up around one of the playing fields last May, some months after CleanSlate Football Club had leased the site from MK Council. The fence had been built without planning permission and several residents met MKC Ward Councillor Peter McDonald to complain about the intrusion. Together, they agreed to knock on doors to canvas wider opinion. 90% of people (representing 181 out of about 250 neighbours) thought the fence should come down. 10% said they were not affected and only one person thought the fence should stay.

The Ward Councillor then chaired a meeting between residents and MKC officers where, although admitting that the fence was in breach of the lease, officers wanted to find a compromise. Councillor McDonald said, "If MKC just persuades them to put up a different fence that does not require planning permission then we are sending a signal that any organisation that has an MKC lease on green spaces can enclose them. This has huge implications, not just in my Ward, but across Milton Keynes."

CleanSlate FC is a semi-professional club which offers free football to disadvantaged youngsters. They took over the Down Barn sports-fields,

the pavilion and multi-use games area on a 15-year lease from MKC last December, and have allegedly spent £10,000 building the fence. In a Citizen article, CleanSlate said, "The purpose of the fence is to protect the pitch from the constant vandalism, overuse and dog fouling we have experienced there. We have healthy ambitions to improve the facility to allow our many teams to progress, but this is not possible unless the pitch can be properly maintained and protected."

George Newall, who lives nearby, says, "Our children have grown up playing football in Downs Barn and in 26 years there has never been a problem with vandalism or dog fouling. We were very upset when we were shut out without any consultation. It doesn't look like Milton Keynes any more with our green areas fenced off."

MK Council has now confirmed that constructing the fence was illegal and that it will be removed.

War horse veteran remembered

A young man who tended wounded horses during the Great War will finally have a headstone erected in his memory thanks to volunteers from St Andrews Church, in Great Linford, and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

Christopher Lorton Sapwell was born in Great Linford in 1888. One of ten children, he was a house boy at Great

Linford Manor and later worked with horses. He married Louisa Temple, from Rivetts Yard in the same village, in 1909.

Horses played a vital role in the First World War, and after volunteering to join



Army manoeuvres in Wolverton courtesy of Living Archives

the Army Veterinary Corps, in 1915, Christopher served in the wretched conditions of the Somme. According to The National Roll of the Great War "He did excellent work attending to sick and wounded horses. Later in 1916 he was invalided to England with pleurisy and was finally discharged as medically unfit for further service on 14 June 1916. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star and the General Service and Victory Medals."

Christopher died of TB aged just 30 on 16 August 1918. According to The Bucks Standard newspaper of the day, "The mortal remains of Christopher Lorton Sapwell [were] conveyed to the church on a gun carriage, the coffin was covered by the Union Jack, and was attended by twelve Royal Engineers from the Newport Pagnell Wireless Depot."

Fortunately, three of Christopher's brothers, Lance Corporal Albert Sapwell, Private Ernest Sapwell and Sergeant Walter Sapwell, all returned safely from the war.

Next time you are walking through Great Linford Manor Park, why not call into St Andrew's Church? Inside is a War Memorial, with a Roll of Honour beneath, which lists the names of one hundred local men who served in the First World War. The parchment was restored after GLPC awarded a grant towards the remembrance project, which includes an illustrated booklet, "St Andrew's Remembers", a copy of which is kept in the reference library in CMK.

If you are a relative of Christopher Sapwell, the CWGC would like to invite you to attend the installation of his headstone at some future date. Please email the CWGC representative via: mo.russell@cwgc.org.

MARSH DRIVE MASTER PLAN

By Andrew Morphet,
Project Manager

Improvement ideas for the Marsh Drive facility are making progress and we hope lots of residents will come to the parish office on Wednesday 7th December to see the initial Master Plan. Our consultants, Nortoft Planning, will be on hand to answer questions from 5.00 – 8.00 pm, with a formal presentation at 7.00 pm.

The aim is to build on feedback gathered for the

Neighbourhood Plan and create accessible facilities for all members of the community to enjoy. These will:

- Allow wider use of the area for recreation, leisure, community uses and sports
- Improve facilities for existing users including the higher standards needed as sports groups progress through the leagues
- Link to other nearby leisure areas to develop a continuous and appealing recreational area
- Create more viable wildlife areas.

Early ideas were tested at the Family Fun Day in July, and again for six weeks this autumn. At the time of writing, there are some clear preferences and the responses are being carefully considered to help produce the initial Master Plan.

We want to gather as much feedback as possible so if you can't attend the open evening on 7th December please look at the plan on the website and in the office during December and send us your views.

Christmas Street

By Eirwen Tagg

Since 2004 the residents of Summer Hayes in Great Linford have raised £45,750 for Willen Hospice. Last year alone their Christmas Light display raised nearly £9,000!

The pleasure that these volunteers give to all the children and adults who visit this bit of Wonderland is plain to see. But we should also give



thanks to all the residents in this area for their patience and flexibility. Sometimes the flow of evening visitors to "Christmas Street" tests the nerves as people are trying to get into or out of their homes.

MK Council Highways department and the Police reviewed the situation last year, and attended throughout December to ensure there were no problems. MKC provided roadway advice to ensure that the lights turn-on was as safe as possible.

The organisers and the Parish Council would be glad to hear from anyone who would like to help with monitoring traffic flow and parking for this year's event, which runs from 3 - 31 December; training will be provided. Also we have received ideas from residents about sharing driveways to help alleviate parked cars on the roads. If you have any ideas or would like to help please contact the Parish Manager via parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk.

HARRY POTTER IN GREAT LINFORD

In just two weeks a group of young people taking part in the

National Citizen Service award organised a Harry Potter-themed fundraising event for their chosen charity Ride High. This was held at Ping Square, where Peartree Pond provided a lovely backdrop to the day's events, and raised a massive £700. Allan Taylor, who owns the local centre, also donated £100 bringing the total to £800. Ride High gives disadvantaged children a fresh view of the world by giving them the chance to ride or work with ponies and horses. Helen Dixon from the charity thanked the young volunteers



Young fundraisers

and Mr Taylor, saying, "The young people from NCS did a fantastic job!" Mr Taylor says he is keen to encourage such charitable events, and is willing to donate £100 towards the set-up costs, subject to certain conditions. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.



Part of fence in Downs Barn

and finally...

Milton Keynes 50 YEARS YOUNG

In January 1967 a loaf of bread cost a shilling (5p), mini-skirts were all the rage and the Monkees topped the hit parade with "I'm a believer". By coincidence, a young group of city-builders also believed the near-impossible: that they could build a new city for 250,000 people in a few decades. The architects of MK, led by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, had a remarkable vision of a highly connected, flexible and democratic "City of Trees". As the grid roads, houses and linear parks were laid out, in this rural corner of Buckinghamshire, people from all over the world started to believe in it too. By 1991 over 100,000 incomers had made this their home, as well as many international companies, from Minolta to Mercedes.

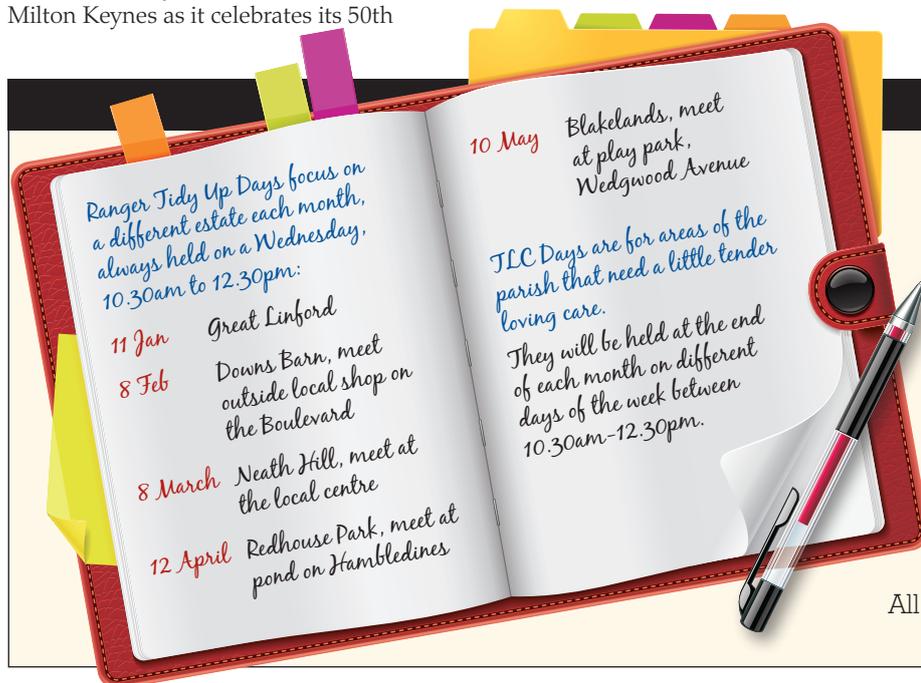
Please send us your own memories of Milton Keynes as it celebrates its 50th

anniversary, and if you have any good ideas about how the parish could celebrate this milestone please get in touch.

TOP TO BOTTOM: Be there or be square. And don't forget your flares! The Point was CMK's first leisure destination and Britain's first American-style multi-screen cinema. It had a grand piano in the lobby and a snazzy nightclub on the top floor. Photo courtesy Living Archive.

Even the bus station was beautiful. Photo courtesy of lead architect, Derek Yeardon. Crown Copyright.

Relaxing by the fountain in Queen's Court. The Shopping Building was designed as MK's high street, with big name stores as well as butchers, bakers, an indoor market and pubs. Does anyone remember The City Duck? Innovative housing in Conniburrow. Look how small the trees are! Images courtesy City Discovery Centre. Crown Copyright.



Local events to look out for

Join Simon, our friendly Parish Ranger, for a neighbourly Tidy Up day.

We supply equipment and cups of tea! Just wear suitable clothes.

Events are held on a different estate each month and are always on a Wednesday 10.30 – 12.30.

All event details can be found on our website www.great-linford.gov.uk



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. 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