

Northloy NorthEast



News from your Parish Council

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

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

All Councillor email addresses: firstname.surname@great-linford.gov.uk

Conniburrow

Jimmy Zamek 07920 760345
Alifa Chowdhury 01908 606613
Shadat Khan 01908 606613

Downhead Park & Willen Park North

Gbolade Coker 01908 606613
Trevor Heale 01908 606613

Downs Barn

Janet Maclean 01908 606613
Nellie Hyacinthe 01908 606613

Giffard Park & Blakelands

Tony Bedford 01908 606613
Peter Widdowson 01908 617078
Vacancy

Great Linford

Charles Omole 01908 606613
Nick Phillips 07388 306934
Ian Foskett 01908 606613
Cecil Macaulay 01908 231027

Neath Hill

Martin Burgess 01908 606613
David Stabler 01908 672599

Pennyland & Bolbeck Park

Steve Neate 01908 606613
Marc Whelan 07966 489489

Redhouse Park

Vacancy

Willen Park South

Sam Crooks 07803 036656



autumn 2018

comment

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of North by North East which I hope you will find interesting, informative and entertaining in equal measures.

As the recently elected new Chair of the Parish Council, I must firstly thank Keith Panes, the outgoing Chair, for all his hard work and dedication over the past seven years and hope that I can live up to the standards he has set. I am determined that GLPC will continue to fight for our vision of a proud community living in a great locality.

We have again reached that hugely important time in the life of our parish when we review the Strategic Plan which leads us into our budget setting process. We have reviewed our aims and objectives, discussed the successes and failures of the previous year, and are considering our four-year financial projections and options. In the light of this information we will set our council tax, called the precept.

The Strategic Plan may not be recommended bedtime reading, but one thing I can promise is - wherever the planning process takes us - at the heart of our strategy will be a dedicated team supporting all sections of our community and delivering the things you tell us you value.

We aim for a community, fully engaged in local matters, living in a great area that is well maintained, with high quality facilities and services that meet its needs – I urge you to share our vision and look forward to working with and for you over the coming year.



Tony Bedford
Chair
Great Linford Parish Council

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: Sammy Jones
Front Cover:
Butterfly Mosaic on the ROCLA
Trail by Melanie Watts.

PLANNING REVIEW

by David Stabler, GLPC Lead Councillor Planning

Resounding NO to Lidl

In July, MK Councils' Development Control Committee (DCC) voted 8 to 2 against Lidl's application to build a 2,206 m² (23,700 square feet) store on the Walnuts site, Wolverton Road.

GLPC Councillor Allan Calverley, supported by three residents, argued before DCC that GLPC objected to the application because the development was not in line with existing and future planning policy. Plan MK proposes the site should be for housing with any retail development adjacent the M1 embankment.

After a long debate, other problems such as increased traffic, cars turning right into and out of the 170 space car park and delivery vehicles clashing with shoppers, convinced the Committee to vote overwhelmingly against the Lidl plans.

However, Lidl could appeal within six months of the published decision.

Yeomans Drive warehouse. Appeal and new application

The developer appealed Condition 10, imposed on May 2017, which states:

"There shall be no heavy goods vehicle, entering, exiting or operating within the site outside of the hours of 07:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday and 10:00 to 16:00 on Saturdays, Sunday and Bank Holidays."

The Planning Inspectorate started to consider the appeal but the developer suddenly withdrew the appeal.

The developer then submitted a new full planning application, for an identical warehouse to the one approved last year. The Head of Planning explained that this was necessary as Planning Officers had made errors omitting conditions agreed by the Development Control Committee (DCC) from Decision Notice issued in January 2018. GLPC and residents are now able to object to the application about the building height shadowing their homes, traffic volumes and fumes causing nuisance, which DCC may decide are sufficient to refuse the application.

Redhouse Park expansion plans

Just before NbyNE went to press, a community consultation was scheduled for a 60-plus housing development including affordable homes, as an extension of Redhouse Park. The site behind the RAMADA Hotel was previously owned by Welcome Break and is part of the 2004 Northern Expansion Area Development Plan, which guided development of Redhouse Park.

In 2013, Welcome Break submitted an outline application 13/01607/OUT for 56 residential units but, as access could not be agreed with Avant Homes, this did not proceed.

To eliminate the possibility of 'rat running' as a way of avoiding Newport Pagnell, GLPC have sought assurances that there will be no access for vehicles, including buses from Redhouse Park onto Little Linford Lane. However, to minimise disruption to existing residents, construction access will be from Little Linford Lane.

Great Linford Manor Park

With a £3.1 million grant, the Parks Trust plan to redevelop the Manor Park to encourage public access to the revitalised parkland.

GLPC questioned key elements including the large car park off Marsh Drive, which would require chopping down some publicly owned woodland. No decision had been taken to transfer this to the Parks Trust under a lease arrangement.

The Parks Trust have agreed GLPC's request to relocate the car park, to land they own west of the Memorial Hall.

GLPC has also suggested reductions and modification to the proposed increase in parking adjacent the Arts Centre and St Andrew's Church, which are all accessed using the road through Parklands.

The Parks Trust agreed a full Listed Building Consent application should be made and approved, before alterations are made to the High Street Grade II Listed gates, railings and piers.

IMAGE: Great Linford Manor Park, picture courtesy of The Parks Trust.



Getting to the root of the issue with

GUERRILLA GARDENING



Green-fingered good Samaritans are taking tired and unloved corners of our parish, and transforming them into pretty flower patches in so-called acts of guerrilla gardening.

It's a win-win for the community: cultivating the neglected areas and filling them with blooms is good for wildlife, makes the area look pretty and encourages you to get to know your neighbours

Sarah Bohn from Great Linford is one of those making a difference.

She moved into her property last spring and her garage is adjacent to her property. The previous owners had stripped away the brambles from the garage wall, leaving the strip of council land bare and ugly.

Sarah said, "It made me miserable every time I looked out of the kitchen window when I was washing up. It seemed to attract cigarette butts, rubbish and even dog poo. A neighbour had planted some wild geraniums on one corner of it to try and cheer it up, but when a delivery van parked on it, almost squishing those poor geraniums, I thought the area needed to look like a garden so it could be loved again."

Sarah is a new convert to gardening, but with help from a friend, they weeded and dug out the rotten roots and bramble remains, and popped in a few plants.

"As we were working away on it, neighbours came out and praised me for what I was doing," Sarah said. "Then they

brought over plants from their gardens which were looking for homes, or were spare. Suddenly it became a community garden. We went from one patch of geraniums, which we split to help spread, to having 12 different types of plants of all colours and sizes." Sarah then maintained the area, regularly weeding and watering the space to give it the best chance to develop and bloom.

If you have a neglected patch near your property, Sarah would encourage you to do as she did – and turn the nasty into the nice. This summer, the results of the hard work were apparent to everyone who visited, and no-one got more satisfaction than the lady who had taken matters into her own hands. Sarah added, "I could look out of my kitchen window this year and see pink fuchsias, two shades of geraniums and a variety of thriving plants. It made me so happy. I love that it cost nothing to do, beyond a little bit of hard work."

"So far, no-one has run over it since it has been established, and now no rubbish lands there. I get great pleasure from it, and so do my neighbours.

Bryan Lea has transformed unloved areas in Great Linford and now has fantastic floral spots during the summer months.

"I moved to Milton Keynes in 2008 and noticed a neglected piece of ground as you drove into the estate. Milton Keynes Council 'maintained' it by spraying weed killer on whatever tried to grow there. I approached Great Linford Parish Council and was given permission to look after it. I actually have three guerrilla gardens on my estate, though one of them is only a little one metre triangle."

These miniature gardens bring a splash of colour to otherwise forgotten spots and show that the area is cared for - which, in turn, brings a sense of pride.

And maintaining these little patches of land need not be a time-consuming business, nor a costly one.

Bryan said: "I don't spend many hours on the areas. My guerrilla gardens consist of wild flowers that were there originally, or have blown in, plus flowering plants and ornamental grasses from my own garden. My brother gave me packets of seeds that were free on the front of a gardening magazine he buys. I remove any undesirable weeds such as nettles, docks, thistles and seedling trees."

If you are thinking of getting stuck in where you live, Bryan has some sound advice: "Make sure you have permission first." If you do reach for the trowel and take on your own little transformation, you will be rewarded just as Bryan has been. "I have had appreciative comments from people when I have been maintaining my guerrilla gardens," he said, "...and the gardens are visited by bees, which are in decline nationally."

🌸 Guerrilla gardening means to garden on land that isn't yours, in areas not being properly cared for, and on abandoned sites believed to be neglected by the legal owner.

🌸 It is a great way to bring the community together and encourages everyone to take a pride in where they live.

🌸 It plants positive roots for the future, literally.

New Tamil Temple

will bring colour and variety to our parish

With work nearing completion on the new Tamil Temple in Glazier Drive, Neath Hill, NorthbyNorthEast spoke with Dr Mylvaganam Veeravahu from the Milton Keynes Murugan Temple Trust to find out how the temple will enrich the parish – and allay concerns aired by a minority of residents.

Milton Keynes is currently home to between four and five thousand Tamil-speaking Hindus, with the majority being from Sri Lanka and South India, but there is no permanent Hindu temple.

"The new facility will be used for prayer, reflection and meditation, which will certainly enhance the spiritual and mental wellbeing of individuals," Dr Veeravahu explained. "It will help them to cope with the stresses of settling into a new environment."

Aside from daily prayer meetings and religious services, the space will also be used to celebrate family occasions, host toddler clubs, Senior Citizen clubs, cultural classes and yoga and meditation sessions. The wider community will also be encouraged to use the temple for these activities. "The temple has a separate hall that will be available for a reasonable fee, and we hope the social activities will lead to a more settled, supportive and integrated local community," Dr Veeravahu said.

Great Linford Parish Council worked with the Murugan Temple Trust to ensure that the development will have minimal impact on the residential area close-by, and official opposition to the application was little. But people have still aired concerns about the

impact the new temple will have – with noise and parking issues two of the biggest worries. "There were only two objections from the neighbours during the planning permission stage and just one during the start of building work. One side of the building area is bordered by the redway, and well away from residences. "On two sides it is enclosed by public roads and the fourth side faces St Monica's School playground. The site has 34 car parking spaces and, as such, is unlikely to cause parking problems in the area."

And fears that noise will be an unwelcome 'extra' with the temple are unfounded. Sound mitigation measures will be carried out, and reports suggest there will be no issues to worry residents. Dr Veeravahu said: "The reports indicate that the noise generated from the building is likely to be less than the surrounding road traffic noise."

The new Tamil Temple and its users welcome the community to learn more about their beliefs – replacing ignorance with fact. Dr Veeravahu added: "We foresee the community centre and the temple becoming a hub of activity in the future. It would serve as a unique meeting place for social and religious purposes, enriching the lives of many people in the parish and around Milton Keynes. Our new temple and community centre will bring added colour and variety to the already truly multi-ethnic community of Milton Keynes. The ancient Hindu faith encourages respect of one another, tolerance and social responsibility. Visits by school children, as part of the religious studies curriculum, would help to spread understanding and mutual respect for different religions, nurturing peaceful co-existence."

The land being used for the temple build is among various plots that were gifted to the Milton Keynes Community Foundation (MKCF) by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation in the 1980s.

The sites can be purchased and developed by not-for-profit organisations, local authority groups, or charities that are working to benefit the people of Milton Keynes.

Groups have to show that their development would benefit the local community.

The MK Murugan Temple Trust has been holding weekly prayer meetings in Milton Keynes for more than 12 years and growing membership led to registration with the Charity Commission more than five years ago.

The Trust applied for the Glazier Drive site, and was successful in reserving it in early 2015.

BELOW: Artist's impression and work in progress





“Every house was leafleted ahead of those events. We wanted to say to people; ‘Come and see what this is all about - this is for you.’ We were all very keen that residents knew it was their project. A real mix of people attended, which was lovely.”

“People were enthusiastic and those that did engage really wanted to take a pride in it, which is great, because the art will be there permanently. We want people in the area to say ‘Look what we’ve got,’ and encourage visitors from elsewhere to come and enjoy ROCLA too.”

Helen compiled details of the artists, together with her observations and suggestions, and identified potential sites and themes. Her framework plan long-listed more than 40 artists who had responded to the call-out. She then handed her findings to the Project Board to make the final decision on which artists to commission.

“I’m always interested to learn more about different art forms and ROCLA was a really lovely venture for me, and the breadth of the proposal was really exciting,” she says, in hindsight. “I immersed myself, became involved and fell in love with it...”

TOP: Getting foxy with the folks from Festive Road.

ABOVE: The Cute Map gets the go-ahead!

RIGHT: The Carved Oak Root is a magical wooden wonder.

ROCLA

Redhouse Park’s Own Collection of Lasting Art

‘I immersed myself and fell in love with it...’

Helen Parlor, the artist responsible for curating the ROCLA art project, is known for her work in dance - as a contemporary dancer, performer, choreographer and director.

She was one of the creators of the celebrated Paralympic Opening Ceremony for London 2012. Art shares much with dance – both are highly creative forms of expression. When she saw the role of curator advertised early in 2017, she was instantly drawn to the project - especially as she grew up so close to the area.

But how do you research and curate a project like ROCLA? With the computer and by using your feet, according to Helen.

“I researched the area on the internet, and learned about the nature reserve next door, I talked to people and set out to really get a feel for the place. Redhouse Park was really well designed around nature, and I think the partnership between that and people is really important. I also love work that engages the community. I wanted to immerse myself. The Gyosei Art Trail was so successful, and I walked that a number of times. Basically I used my feet, and did a lot of walking, and a lot of talking!”

And when she had a firm grasp of the area, and the requirements, she put a nationwide call out for artists to make contact. “I wanted to embrace professional artists who lived locally, as well as nationally to ensure the quality was the highest it could be. Initially it was to get an expression of interest, and the response was amazing,” Helen says.

Great Linford Parish Council wanted to engage residents with every step of the process to make sure the right decisions were taken. Public consultation days proved invaluable.



The Redhouse Park ROCLA Art Trail was launched officially at the start of September by the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Martin Petchey.

The selection of commissioned pieces of art has created a trail to enrich the area, and it has had quite the impact – not just in the parish, but in the wider area.

Recalling the ROCLA pipe company which used to be based at the site, the name now stands for Redhouse Park’s Own Collection of Lasting Art. The project was created with funding from the developer Avant Homes’ Section 106 monies, and the aim was to balance pressures created by new developments with improvements to the surrounding area – ensuring a positive contribution is made for the community. It is a scheme called Percent for Art. The ROCLA Art Trail cost £125,000, and not a penny of council tax was used.

John Best, who now chairs Arts Gateway MK, is a town planner and former CEO of MK Council and was among a panel of half a dozen people whose job was to ensure the money was used to its best potential: “It is all about introducing quality into the new developments,” he said. “Compared to other places, Milton Keynes is ahead of others on Percent for Art, because there is so much new building here. That’s why we have the best collection of public art in the country.”

ABOVE: Beverley Calverley (centre), chair Project Board, with the Mayor, councillor Martin Petchey, GLPC councillor David Stabler (right) and artists celebrate the launch of the ROCLA Art Trail.

The panel, which was chaired by local resident Beverley Calverley, quickly set to work. “The approach for Redhouse Park was to collaborate with Great Linford Parish Council, who had already done the great Gyosei Art Trail, so they had experience in the area. We had to ask ourselves ‘How do you spend £125,000? Should it be on just one piece of art? Or several pieces? Should it be something picking out the essence of the area?’”

As can now be seen throughout the estate, the team decided on a number of installations. John said, “There were some sceptical voices among local residents at the start, but seeing how fascinating and beautiful the art is, they have nearly all turned! And there really is something for everyone – much of the work invites you into its grasp, and some pieces encourage you to be hands-on. The energy that the bugs draw out of four-year-olds is extraordinary! It builds a real engagement in the art, and that’s something you wouldn’t get with a single totemic piece.”

“The trail gives the community a legacy,” said Beverley. “I have had several residents say that the art has made the area beautiful. One lady told me ‘It has made us proud to live in Redhouse Park, and the children are all talking about the bugs at school.’”

“I hope the trail will inspire happiness, give pleasure, and encourage people to have conversations that may start with the art and lead to who knows where. Perhaps the next Leonardo da Vinci, who was inspired by his surroundings, lives on Redhouse Park,” she added.

John concluded, “We want people from all walks of life and all corners of the borough to come and enjoy it. We want to build new audiences and get through to younger people. Much of this art is intrinsically and authentically about the place, and has magic built in. If you can build magic, you will get into the hearts of people.”



Redhouse Park’s Own Collection of Lasting Art



ROCLA

Humanised sculpture in an urban environment

Redhouse Park has been invaded by bugs as part of ROCLA, all from the clever hand of blacksmith Paul Gulati. "The creatures lend themselves to blacksmithing, and I've always loved insects," Paul says. "Making giant bugs is one of my hobbies."

Paul created oversized glow-worms, daddy longlegs, grasshoppers, beetles, snails, butterflies, moths, millipedes, caterpillars, dragonflies and spiders for the project. "They are very time consuming and fiddly, mainly because they have so many legs - sorting out all their legs and welding them into the right place takes up the time," he said, explaining that on average a bug takes around three hours to make.

They have each found homes high up on lampposts, and Paul is thrilled with their unusual placing.

There are 36 creatures to find in all, which makes for a great bug hunt for youngsters and their families.

Paul hopes that while people have fun finding the super-sized spiders and ginormous grasshoppers, children will also be inspired to learn more about the creatures. "Kids love them and interact with them and I like to see that, and I feel like they are getting educated by my big bugs. They make you more aware of things you might not normally see. A tiny spider might be only a few millimetres wide, but make it giant and people take more notice."

And those bugs we take for granted or swat when they get too close for comfort, really do deserve our respect: "I read recently that if we were all removed from the planet, the planet would carry on, but if you removed all the insects, then complete life would die out. That shows how important bugs are."



And unlike their real-life counterparts, Paul's bugs can last for decades. Even without another lick of paint they could be fine for 30 years, but care for them and they will stay around for much, much longer. "ROCLA is a quirky, original trail to follow," he says of the art on our doorstep. "It is something unusual and personable... a bit of humanised sculpture in an urban environment, and an education in insects and nature."

Download a 'Spot the Bug Sheet' at www.great-linford.gov.uk/projects/bug-on-clamppost

For more examples of work by Melanie Watts visit www.melaniewatts mosaics.co.uk

TOP: Something is definitely bugging Paul!

ABOVE: Admiring the Butterfly Mosaic by Melanie Watts.

LEFT: Sheree Murray with one of her clever Cute Maps - there are four in all, each fixed into a concrete pipe of the type made by Rocla Pipes.

Redhouse Park's Own Collection of Lasting Art



Meet your new(t) NEIGHBOURS!

Ground-breaking conservation has begun in Millennium Wood behind the football pitches, at Marsh Drive.

Wildlife ponds have been dug to create new habitat for Great Crested Newts.



TOP: A Great Crested Newt, picture by Natural England.

ABOVE: A threatened species.

BELOW: The large Millennium Woodland pond during the dig, picture by Peter Case.

The work is the culmination of months of preparation by Milton Keynes Council, in partnership with Nature Space and the South Midlands Newt Conservation Partnership, for a pilot project which promises to enhance the population of the threatened species whilst reducing delays to major building projects.

Great Crested Newts, the largest of our native newt species, have been around for approximately 40 million years. They are widely distributed throughout Britain but the distribution is extremely patchy; they're absent from Ireland and have disappeared from many sites across Europe. During the breeding season, males develop a jagged crest which has a break at the base of the tail. The Great Crested Newt is a European Protected Species, and it is illegal to capture, kill, injure or disturb them without a licence.

Under the current system, developers on sites with the newts must carry out surveys and, if they are unable to avoid or mitigate impacts on the newts, must apply for a licence to move the animals before building work can begin.

The new approach will provide natural environment benefits and will help the Great Crested Newts by providing a network of habitat, instead of trying to fit them in around development work. It will also allow a more straightforward process for developers, saving time and costs on vital building work in Milton Keynes.

The most significant populations of the newts have been identified, guiding where habitat improvements will bring the greatest conservation benefit and highlighting locations where development will have negative impact on the species.

As part of the plan, suitable locations have been mapped where habitat could be created, or improved, to compensate for any localised damage to the Great Crested Newt habitat.

The Millennium Wood was chosen as the first of these conservation sites. The new ponds are fully funded from developer contributions including their long term management, so there is no cost to the tax payer.

The nature of the ponds is that they are relatively shallow (up to one metre deep), allowing easy access in and out, but also hold water for most of the year.

It is important the ponds don't support fish that would otherwise eat the young newts, known as efts. These ponds will crucially improve the habitat for many other amphibian species, dragonflies and other invertebrates and wetland plants.



why not send us your news & views?

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR THE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Conniburrow Children's Centre is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2018. It supports children under five years, and their families, offering information on healthy lifestyles and education, and training and play sessions.

There are 17 Children's Centres in Milton Keynes, and on occasion they are able to provide extra support; they have helped people leave abusive relationships, and assisted hundreds of adults without qualifications to secure NVQs and go into employment.

The family hub has spent the last couple of months celebrating its 10 year milestone by engaging with its community. In August, families were invited to take home a piece of bunting and decorate it with photos and pictures, which were hung at the centre. The creativity continued in September with a month of pebble painting before the stones were hidden around the area for people to find. This popular pastime is a great way to bring smiles to the neighbourhood.

In October, a month-long treasure hunt was held, inviting families to solve clues and find celebratory objects.

Conniburrow Children's Centre welcomes new faces at any time. "If you have attended during the last 10 years, come and share your memories. Or, if you haven't attended yet, come and make memories," a spokesperson encouraged.

FIND IT: 1 Germander Place, Conniburrow or call 01908 675575.

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Do you want to become a parish councillor? Great Linford Parish Council currently has two vacancies: one each in Giffard Park and in Redhouse Park.

If you are interested in your community, environment and other people, and would like to represent the views of other residents and help to influence change, the role of a parish councillor could be for you.

Our parish covers 12 estates, 8000 electors and a population in excess of 22,000.

As changes occur and services are cut by the Government and Milton Keynes Council, the Parish Council needs to prioritise the community's needs with the available funding.

If you are considering working in your community, find out more now by calling us on 01908 606613 or emailing Parish Manager Eirwen Tagg at parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk

Councillors are elected every four years, and in May 2019

the whole of the Parish Council will be elected. We will have more information on the election in the next edition of NorthbyNorthEast.

THE PARISH GOES LOOPY FOR ROLAND'S SCULPTURE

Great Linford Parish resident, Roland Lawar, works as a sculptor, and has just gifted one of his works to the area.

Self-taught, he began developing his skills more than 35 years ago, and remains as passionate about the art form today as he did when he first began. "When growing up, I used to sit for hours staring at cracks in the walls and forming images with them," he remembers. "These things bring up thoughts and experiences that challenge me and guide me through my creative processes. I chose this particular medium because of the tangibility of the end product, and the process of creating an object which has total control of its immediate space into which viewers are invited to explore," he told NorthbyNorthEast.

In Milton Keynes, his public works can be seen in the grounds of the Open University, and in the foyer of MK College on Silbury Boulevard - and now the parish has a piece of Roland's creativity too!

His sculpture, Blue Loop, was first conceived in Houston, Texas in 2003, and constructed from scrapped tubular steel.



Roland, with his work.

Since returning to England, Roland has spent nearly a decade living and working here, and Blue Loop has been enjoying exposure locally - it was installed in the grounds of Inter-Action in Peartree Bridge, until the charity ceased in 2015.

In August, an unveiling ceremony was held in Fulwell Court, Great Linford where it has been permanently positioned on the front lawn for visitors to enjoy.

CASH INJECTION FOR SCOUT GROUP

Great Linford Scout Group were the beneficiaries of the Parish Council fun day, which was held at the start of July as the sun shone.

Money raised at the event will go toward the renovation of the group's base at Loriner Place in Downs Barn. A grant given by the Parish Council will further support that work - allowing for the installation of disabled washroom facilities and double access doors, making the premises accessible to all.

"Through fundraising over the past year, we have successfully raised enough money to secure

the site and can now move our attention to remodelling the building so that it can be used as the headquarters for the Great Linford (St Andrews) Scout Group, which is where the money will significantly help," said chair, Russell Horne. The group currently has around 165 beavers, cubs and scouts. "This building will play a vital role in expanding the programmes that the leaders put together," he added.

Anyone interested in helping the group should contact Group Scout Leader Jenny Evans on gsl@greatlinfordscouts.org

WORD PLAY WITH EDDIE

Parish resident Eddie Thompson has been retired for a long time, but the sprightly 82-year-old keeps an active mind by writing poetry.

Now, his winning way with words has been put into book form for everyone to enjoy - issue four was out in the summer. "I write about the things I experience, about life as I see it, about something I might have read about in the paper...anything at all really," he told NorthbyNorthEast.

He got the bug for the short verse fun in the early 1960s: "I just like messing about with words and getting them to rhyme," explained the Conniburrow resident, pointing

out that he does write some free verse too.

Though his words have a certain flow, there is no rhyme or rhythm when it comes to finding the time to write them. "I might write two a day, and then have a month with nothing," he admits. "The best time for writing is between waking up and getting up - before the mind is occupied with other stuff!"

Eddie's current book Poetry Semi-Skimmed, joins previous releases Poetry Light, Poetry Decaffed and Poetry Free Range: "The titles all suggest something is missing," Eddie says. A fifth, Poetry Plain will be released shortly.

When not cooking up poems, Eddie keeps busy as a member of MK Chorale, following the MK Dons, and with written word and poetry groups in Milton Keynes. "Once you get into it, poetry in Milton Keynes is big. There are slams and open mics to be found," he says, encouraging others who want to have a go to step forward.

Eddie's books are available to purchase online through Amazon. He says, "I hope they raise a smile. If they do that, then the aim has been achieved."

YOU CAN HELP MAKE OUR ROADS SAFER

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a national incentive where active members of

communities join with the support of the Parish Council and the police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices.

Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the police, with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is collated (even across county borders), enforcement and prosecution follow.

If this is something you would like to be involved in, please contact Ruth at office@great-linford.gov.uk

We are holding another event from Monday, November 19 for five days, and if we can get enough trained volunteers it will be a set event in our community calendar. Let's educate people that the limit is 30 for a reason!

Speed Watch activity is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour; it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community.

DOWNNS BARN MUGA IMPROVEMENTS

CleanSlate Football Club has plans to improve the Multi-Use Games Area [MUGA] at Pannier Place Downs Barn.

CleanSlate have a long lease at Downs Barn from MK Council. Facilities include the MUGA, four football pitches and the Pavilion, which can be hired by community, business groups or local organisations.

"The idea is to develop the MUGA from three dangerous degrading tarmac courts, by converting two into 3G Astroturf surfaced courts, keeping the existing flood lighting," Joel Kennard, CleanSlate FC Club Secretary, told NorthbyNorthEast. "We consider this will reinvigorate an ageing facility, assist the CleanSlate FC community aims and activities and provide Milton Keynes with another much needed all-weather facility to meet the high demand for multi-sports use."

CleanSlate FC are a semi-professional Christian football club in Milton Keynes, established in 2010. As a Christian club, their aim is to represent the positive values of encouragement, respect, integrity, forgiveness, passion and kindness.

Generally, CleanSlate can be defined as having an ambitious vision for the club and community that includes impacting not only the lives of the members but also those of the teams and players with whom they come into contact.

We welcome your views. Please send your letters to:

POST

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

EMAIL

parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk

and finally...

MEMORIES OF A WONDERFUL **SUMMER** *in the Sun*

The exciting programme of activities known as the Summer of Fun was a big success with residents this year, and it boasted an amazing selection of activities.

Summer of Fun is not a childcare programme, but rather an opportunity for everyone to try something different whilst engaging with other people from the community, and spending quality time with family members.

Messy play was introduced this year for under sixes, and messy play it certainly proved to be! Footprint and hand painting, salt dough play and printing with different objects and textures thrilled youngsters.

The older age group were impressed with the cowboy skills and axe throwing, which were popular - especially the whip cracking.

More gentle activities included cooking and creative arts, while a chance to learn the ukulele enabled people to develop their more artistic side. James Boffin, Secret Agent UU7 provided explosively mind-blowing science sessions.

While 2018's Summer of Fun now reminds us of good times spent during a rather wonderful summer, the Parish Council is already working on 2019's programme of events.

Look out for the brochure in book bags and on our website or Facebook page at the end of June, when you can plan your next Summer of Fun.

TOP LEFT: On target for archery. **TOP RIGHT:** You are never too young to have some fun! **RIGHT:** Summer of Fun packed plenty of punch.



Local events to look out for

Join Rangers Wendy and Steve, for a neighbourly Tidy-Up Day.

Spotted an area that needs a tidy?

Let us know! Help us support the community with a tidy-up. We supply equipment and refreshments, just wear suitable clothes.

Perhaps your company supports community action days and would want to work with us to help 'love where you live'.

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



www.great-linford.gov.uk

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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