

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

Alifa Chowdhury 01908 606613
Brent Johnston 01908 785346
Jimmy Zamek 07920 760345

Downhead Park & Willen Park North

Trevor Heale (Vice Chair) 01908 606613
Vacancy (pending)

Downs Barn

Nellie Hyacinthe 01908 606613
Vacancy

Giffard Park & Blakelands

Tony Bedford (Chair) 01908 606613
Lawrence Morgan 01908 606613
Peter Widdowson 01908 606613

Great Linford

Ian Foskett 01908 606613
Stewart Olney 01908 606613
Charles Omole 01908 606613
Marc Whelan 07966 489489

Neath Hill

Martin Burgess 01908 606613
David Stabler 01908 672599

Pennyland & Bolbeck Park

2 Vacancies (pending)

Redhouse Park

Allan Calverley 07720 467334

Willen Park South

Vacancy



Great Locality
Proud Community

autumn 2019

comment

Talking – it’s what I do BEST

My role as Community Liaison Officer developed because I’m inquisitive and I love to help people. Talking and listening means I can do this, by directing them to somewhere that can help or even find out that they can assist us! With my own family, working in and being part of the community; tunes me into issues that people around me are having.

The Parish Council listens to residents’ problems and where possible we work to provide a solution. If the Parish Council can’t help, we will try to find partners to address the issues; such as Citizen’s Advice Bureau; who now run a weekly drop-in session in the Parish Office.

Universal Credit flummoxed a lot of people who came into the office; it’s not something that can be sorted at a short drop-in session, with the worry about benefit changes and the daunting task of filling out the forms. We organised a Universal Credit Evening to help dispel the myths and rumours about the new system and answer residents’ questions.

Our monthly Breakfast/Supper Club responds to questions raised by the community, from recycling and waste, debt, dementia awareness to the need for Power of Attorney to manage someone’s affairs when they can’t.

Collaboration with Youth Information Services provides counselling sessions; for young people in the parish living in a digital age; which brings problems of a whole new complexity. My generation were told to ‘pull yourself together and get on with it’ but today’s approach is to talk.

Asking for help is not a sign of weakness; but a sign that you are on your way to sorting out a problem. The Parish Council can’t help every individual, but we can try!

So if you have an issue that you have been unable to resolve, contact us, if we can’t deal with it, we might know someone who can. Contact us: call Great Linford Parish Council on 01908 606613 or visit www.great-linford.gov.uk

Ruth Panther
Community Liaison Officer



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:

Camphill MK, Photo by Sammy Jones

Introducing...

Great Linford Parish Council has recently welcomed some new councillors. Rather than us make the introductions, here they are with a few words of their own...

Great Linford
Parish Council



Great Locality
Proud Community

Councillor Brent Johnston



I have been involved in politics in Milton Keynes for the past 12 years – I started when I was 14 years old. Since May I have had the

privilege of representing the Conniburrow Ward.

What drives me to be a Parish Councillor is the desire to help people who have been ignored by others. We have some great residents from all over the world, and others who were born and have lived here their whole lives, but they don’t always get the right representation.

Organisations within the estate have done tremendous work to help

alleviate issues including poverty and homelessness.

Together with the power of the Parish Council I want to help them, and show Milton Keynes the true face of Conniburrow.

I got involved in the community through my association with Big Local Conniburrow (BLC) and by volunteering and fundraising for homeless charities.

We each have a duty to help those who can’t help themselves or who are

prevented from doing so.

Since becoming a councillor I have also become Lead for the Environmental Working Group.

We have planned to restore the Conniburrow Pond under my stewardship, and I hope to bring the area back to its former glory and make it a focal point of the community again.

Contact Brent on 01908 606613 or brent.johnston@great-linford.gov.uk

Councillor Stewart Olney



After more than two decades living and working overseas in parts of the world where community values, scope and driving forces are very

different from those of modern Britain, one of the things I really looked forward to, when returning to my home country, was becoming actively involved in the community where we settled.

Although I am a native of Liverpool, my wife and I chose to settle in Milton Keynes, with its wealth of green areas, cycle paths and cosmopolitan feel.

A sense of community is important to the stability and welfare of any society

and, when coming from far outside of an area, becoming actively involved in the local community offers a great opportunity for friendship.

Not all communities are willing to accept and welcome newcomers as readily as ours, and in my experience, Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) is particularly welcoming and appreciative!

GLPC has a fantastic staff and a council of dedicated volunteers who do their

level best to direct the Parish funding allotted by Milton Keynes Council to be used in the most effective ways to benefit the communities within our parish.

Thank you to the parishioners who kindly voted me on to the council – I am very interested to canvass your opinions on the issues that you want me to represent.

Contact Stewart on 01908 606613 or stewart.olney@great-linford.gov.uk

DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE – help is available

Ironically, when we most need help, many of us fail to ask for it – maybe through embarrassment, or perhaps we just don't know where to turn.

But support is available. Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) has teamed up with Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to offer parishioners free drop in sessions every Tuesday.

NorthbyNorthEast spoke with Head of Service **Hollie Chalkley** who explained how CAB can help you.

The most important thing to understand is that no matter what the problem, there really is no need to suffer in silence.

"We are independent and impartial, there is no judgement here. We have seen it all and we try and cope with it all," Hollie promised.

CAB is the main provider of free, impartial and confidential advice in Milton Keynes. What people don't often realise is that the service is not government funded. It is a charity and has to bid for funding to deliver its services.

The scope of areas it covers might surprise you too.

"People can drop in for any issues they have," Hollie said, "from housing and benefit queries, to debt and money advice, employee issues, consumer issues, law and courts, immigration and health issues, and family problems and relationship breakdowns. We cover ending a relationship, gender violence, death and wills, children, looking after people, education, making a will and child maintenance. We get such a variety of questions, no query is ever the same." Unsurprisingly, benefit, debt and money queries are the most common reasons that people seek help for – it is simply a reflection of what is happening in society.

"Our waiting room is always full of an absolute mix of age groups. It's not only people who are out of work who are having debt and money problems, it is people who are in work too. At the drop-in we will do an initial triage to see what the issue is. It may be something we can help with then and



there. If not, we will book an appointment with an advisor. We can help people fill in forms too, anything like that. We also have free solicitor clinics, 20 or 30 minute one-off appointments. It is a really good resource and we can provide that thanks to local companies offering their time for free."

Community Mediators can also assist in resolving disputes – whether between neighbours, colleagues or between a customer and a trader.

"I grew up in Milton Keynes. I know MK, I care about the people, and I have got a vested interest in the community here," said Hollie, who worked as an officer with the

Metropolitan Police before joining CAB in the new city.

"I wanted to do something more social, and more caring - a softer side, maybe dealing with the problems before they arise. I really wanted a new challenge, and the skills are very transferable. In my previous role I had seen some awful things, and we hear terribly sad stories here too, but the thing to remember is that we can help."

"Our services are well used in the Great Linford Parish. We cover all of our enquiry areas at our drop in sessions there, which can make it easier for residents to access our services in a familiar setting. If you need support or advice, please do pop in."

ABOVE: Hollie Chalkley from The Milton Keynes Citizens Advice Bureau.



What is it?

Universal Credit is a means tested benefit for people of low income. It is for people of working age. The upper limit of the working age criteria is state pension age.

What does it replace?

Universal Credit replaces income-based job seekers allowance, income related employment and support allowance, income support, housing benefit, child tax credit and working tax credit.

How can CAB help?

CAB can help you to apply, and explain the procedure so you understand how to manage your account and communicate with your work coach.

Who is it for?

Universal Credit is for people of working age. It can be paid whether you are working, seeking work or unable to work. It is paid monthly and most people are expected to seek or be in full time work while on the benefit.

How can it be accessed?

You can claim online, this can be accessed on **Gov.uk** – type *Universal Credit* in the search field – *Apply for Universal Credit*.

If you need help to complete your Universal Credit application CAB can do that, and if you have any questions contact CAB through the following channels:

Call the free help to claim phone line Monday-Friday 8am-6pm on 0800 144 8 444

Attend CAB's drop in service at Acorn House Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-2pm

Or attend the drop in service on Tuesdays at the Great Linford Parish Council office.

When to claim

If you are unsure whether you are able to claim, or are presently on legacy benefits, CAB can complete a check to see if you are better off on Universal Credit, helping you to make an informed decision.



Drop-in to GLPC Parish Council Office
Great Linford House, 1 St Leger Court,
Great Linford MK14 5HA Tel: 01908 606613
Tuesdays 10am-1pm

or visit Citizens Advice Bureau
Acorn House, Midsummer Boulevard MK9 3HP
Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-2pm

A NEW ERA FOR ST ANDREWS

Plans are being drawn up for an ambitious development project at historic St Andrews Church to secure its place at the centre of the community for centuries to come.

Situated in the tranquil setting of Linford Manor Park, St Andrews has been welcoming worshippers for hundreds of years – the existing tower dates back to the 12th century, and fine examples of architecture from the 14th and 15th centuries are still present today.

The church is among some of the oldest buildings in Milton Keynes, and is its own special, historical record of the way we used to live. It contains a unique insight into the history of Great Linford and the people who have lived here, including Sir William Pritchard; owner of the nearby manor house in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, he was an MP, a former Lord Mayor of London and president of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

In the tree-fringed churchyard, several interesting 18th century gravestones are visible, and a restoration in 1980 uncovered the remains of unmarked medieval burials.

But as with any building, the church has suffered from centuries of wear and tear. Major structural alterations were carried out in 1706 when a poor state of repair meant both the chancel and south aisle had to be rebuilt. Many interior features were added at that time, including a plaster ceiling which sadly conceals a fine medieval moulded timber roof with carved, painted and gilded bosses. A fine painting of the coat of arms of Charles II also survives in the roof space above the chancel arch, but it too is currently hidden from view.

Those caring for the building have decided to seize the opportunity afforded by developments happening across Linford Manor Park, and launch an ambitious project to preserve the rich heritage and secure its future.

"The upkeep and maintenance of such a historic building is a constant challenge; we have a small, ageing congregation and we operate in an increasingly secular age," said Mary O'Neale, lay chair of the Church Council. "The plans mean we can better support community activities and encourage and attract a wide range of visitors to the church, regardless of their religion or beliefs," she added.

Chair of the Development Project Janet Galley said: "Our

aim is for the church to be a centre of worship, historical interest and community activity at the heart of the rejuvenated park."

The proposed developments are exciting, but come with a significant price tag – work is expected to cost in the region of £800,000. It is hoped that grant aid and fundraising will achieve the necessary figure.

Reverend Chuks Iwuagwu, minister of the church said: "St Andrews is a much loved and valued church in the local community. It is a place of friendship, a place of fellowship and a place of the love of God where everyone, irrespective of who they are and where they come from are welcome."

The development plans have three priorities:

- To restore and preserve the heritage by renovating and improving the fabric of the building, revealing the many historic features, improving publicity and information and making the history more accessible to, and understood by the community.
- To reach out to and embrace the wider community by providing better physical access to, and within the church, improved catering and hospitality facilities, and providing meeting spaces with facilities for older people, special needs groups and young children and families.
- To support and strengthen the congregation and increase numbers, particularly of younger families and children, and provide better facilities for a wider range of congregational activities.

For more information about the project, email: greatlinford@googlemail.com

BELOW LEFT: Memorial Plaque for Thomas Uthwat.
BELOW RIGHT: Stained glass window detail.



CAMPHILL DEVELOPMENT plans revealed

Camphill Milton Keynes is preparing to make some big changes to benefit current residents and those joining the community in the future.

Tim Davies, CEO of the independent charity talked to NorthbyNorthEast about the plans...

In Milton Keynes, Camphill provides accommodation and support to around 70 people who have a range of learning disabilities.

Their care is mainly funded by the local authority and residents receive individual help from a network of 60 or so staff and volunteers.

Camphill MK, which is part of the international Camphill movement, was founded in the 1980s and many of the current residents have been living on the premises for more than two decades.

Now, plans are afoot to develop the current sites at Sterling Close Pennyland and off Japonica Lane Willen Park South, and make them more suitable for the future needs of its residents.

"Historically, life expectations for people with learning disabilities were very low, but today with improvements in healthcare, many people are living into old age, which is wonderful," Tim said. "However, old age often brings challenges of mobility and other health concerns that our current housing and workshops are just not suitable for."

Houses and workshops need wheelchair access, lifts and space, together with suitable hoists and other specialist equipment.

"Our plan is to build new housing at our Pennyland site, allowing existing residents to stay and younger disabled residents to join them in housing that is

modern, accessible and suitable for their longer term needs."

The plans also involve modernisation of the workshops, which will be relocated from Pennyland to Willen Park South.

Camphill Theatre off Japonica Lane is set for improvements too, making it fully wheelchair accessible. Tim said: "We would hope to accommodate up to 140 people across the two sites and many more in our expanding workshops."

Those public workshops include art and craft focused options; a weavery and horticulture and tools refurbishment workshops. But the current Pennyland site is aged and no longer suitable for those who use it.

Other workshops include a shop, vegetarian cafe and the hugely successful bakery.

The work is extensive, and will be reflected in the associated costs. The charity has already invested in a feasibility study and planning application, and if things go to plan, the project is expected to take five years to reach completion.

Funding will come from grants, donations and from public social finance, and the work will be carried out in stages.

"The new workshops will be a wonderful resource for our community and the accommodation will go a long way towards meeting the anticipated specialist housing needs," said Tim. "Our activities



TOP: Camphill residents (L to R) Louise B, Charlotte, Ellie, Steven M and Clare B.

ABOVE: Camphill bakers Liam (left) and Dominic show off their latest batch for the bakery.

are what makes us special. They offer residents meaningful activity, a reason to get up in the morning and are often a training resource for paid employment and skills development. We are deeply proud of the work that we achieve together through mutual support.

This project will offer high quality accommodation and resources to MK residents for many years to come."

Camphill is seeking new trustees. If you think you have the required skills to support its growth and development, to find out how you can help with fundraising, or to volunteer, visit the website at www.camphillmk.co.uk



Could your group benefit from a **COMMUNITY GRANT?**

Every year the Parish Council puts aside a pot of money for grants, but conditions apply and certain criteria must be proved in order for money to be awarded.

For example, voluntary organisations including clubs and charities can apply where the applicant should be a resident, or undertake activities within the Parish.

Every applicant will need to explain how residents will benefit should a grant be awarded. They will also need to provide evidence to that effect.

Grants were awarded to various groups in the past year including:

- Milton Keynes Melting Pot, who asked for a grant to take disadvantaged children on a trip to Cadbury World. They were given £400 and had a very enjoyable time!
- Friends of Conniburrow Children's Centre, who were awarded £400 to spend on their summer fete, which was held in August.



LEFT: Fun at Conniburrow summer fete.

Grants will not be given to activities that support or oppose political parties or religion, or on grounds of race, age, gender or disability.

While the grants aren't big, they can still make a difference to people's lives in the Parish.

If you are interested in applying for a grant and fit all the criteria, visit www.great-linford.co.uk for an application form.

Fundraising proposal to put a **defibrillator** at the heart of the community



Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) has been approached by residents who would like support to place and maintain a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) in the Parish.

It has been agreed by GLPC that if a community group raises the necessary funds for a PAD to be installed, GLPC will then take on the cost of the ongoing maintenance of the machine, which will need to be located in a cabinet with an electrical supply.

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) will assist the group, advising on the best place for the defibrillator to be located. Somewhere with a high footfall, or where sporting activities take place regularly would be preferable.

It is a scary fact that just 3% of cardiac arrests happen within the recommended retrieval distance of a defibrillator, according to The Resuscitation Council (UK).

When a cardiac arrest happens, the heart stops pumping blood around the body. Anyone can suffer a cardiac arrest at any time, and a heart attack is just one of the causes. Less than one in 10 people in this country survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. The two main reasons are because not enough people are prepared to perform CPR when someone has a cardiac arrest, and there simply aren't enough defibrillators.

The fact is that when a cardiac arrest occurs, defibrillators save lives. The quicker a defibrillator can be found, the greater the chance of success.

Now it is over to you parish residents. If you want to take on the fundraising for the project, register your interest by emailing Office@great-linford.gov.uk

What does a defibrillator do?

It provides an electrical current applied straight to the chest. The current passes straight through the heart, with the goal of giving the muscle an opportunity for its normal electrical system to take control.

How important are they?

Simply put, they can be the difference between life and death. The British Heart Foundation says that for every minute it takes for a defibrillator to reach someone and deliver a shock, their chances of survival reduce by up to 10%.

How much would it cost to install a defibrillator in the Parish?

The total cost for the device and the cabinet has been estimated at between £1000 and £1750.

THERE IS A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

What can I do to help?

Councillor Trevor Heale says there is a great deal you can do...

All the things in your life have two costs to consider; **the monetary cost and more importantly the carbon cost.** Please try some of these suggestions to reduce your carbon footprint.

Save energy

Switch off all electrical devices when not in use. Did you know your phone charger uses energy when left plugged in?

Meat has a **huge** carbon footprint. It takes 2,400 gallons of water to produce 1lb of beef* and 115lbs of CO2 per pound of beef**. You don't have to go vegetarian/vegan overnight, but reducing your meat consumption has a big effect.

Eat locally produced food, or grow your own food

Visit plantingup.co.uk/ to help you get started.

Be energy aware

On your computers and mobile devices change your search engine to Ecosia. This small company uses profits to plant trees. So far Ecosia has planted more than 68,800,000!

Consider who supplies your energy (electricity & gas). The majority of UK energy suppliers are middle men that don't produce energy at all and their profits go to a large percentage of shareholders abroad.

Consider paying a little more for your energy. The top five renewable energy companies (Ecotricity, Octopus, Solarplicity, Good Energy and Bulb) generate clean energy and put profits directly into generating more renewable energy.

Appliances

"Use a washing line or clothes rack to dry clothes. Tumble dryers use five times as much electricity as washing machines. If your boiler is more than 15 years old, replace it: the carbon saving in the long run will be more than the cost of the new boiler and you can reduce your gas bill by 1/3." This quote comes from a helpful website detailed at the end of this article.***

Avoid 'Fast Fashion'

Our consumer lifestyle is great for a big wardrobe but not for a healthy planet. If you can't reuse, repair or recycle it, don't buy it.

Transport

Use public transport or cycle where you can, or drive electric – the price of secondhand electric cars is cheaper than you'd expect.

Banking

Are you banking with an ethical bank? 2019 top five (in no order) are Engage, Metrobank, Co-Operative, Triodos and Nationwide.

Shop responsibly

Become a savvy shopper, search online about the products you buy regularly. Very few familiar named products are still made by the original producer. Search company names to discover how many serious lawsuits they have and how many of their products you're buying without knowing it.

After reading this article, search "Swiss company CEO said water is not a human right" and adjust your purchasing accordingly.

Please tell everyone what is going on and that there is time to make a difference.

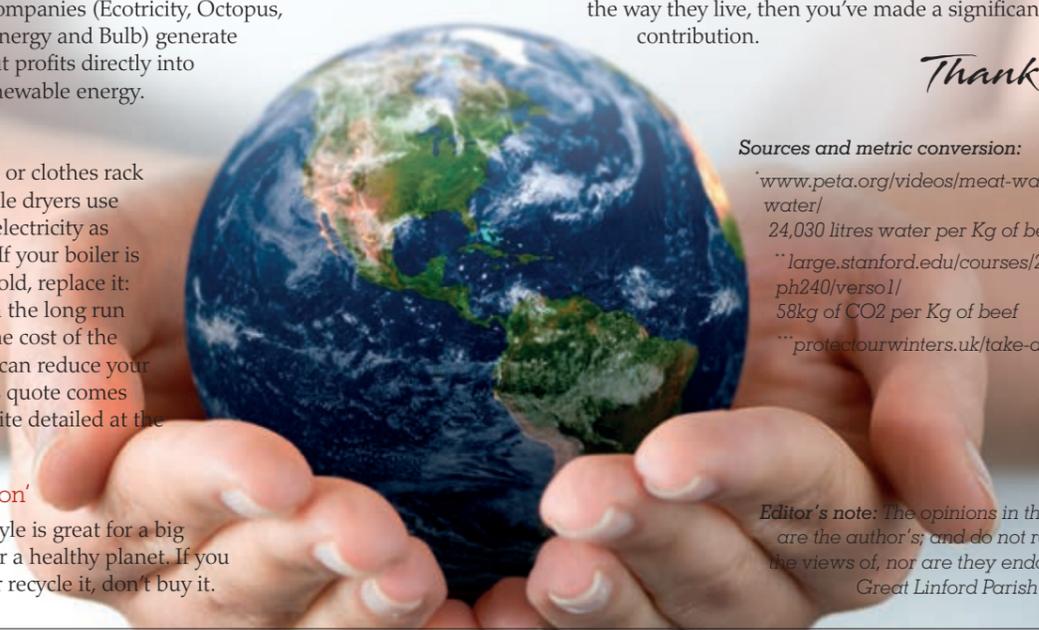
Try to be positive when explaining how they can help mitigate the threat to life on Earth. If just one person you tell begins to change the way they live, then you've made a significant contribution.

Thank you

Sources and metric conversion:

- * www.peta.org/videos/meat-wastes-water/
- ** 24,030 litres water per Kg of beef
- ** large.stanford.edu/courses/2015/ph240/verso1/
- ** 58kg of CO2 per Kg of beef
- *** protectourwinters.uk/take-action/

Editor's note: The opinions in this article are the author's; and do not represent the views of, nor are they endorsed by, Great Linford Parish Council.



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

CONNIBURROW DEVELOPMENT

Mears New Homes (MNH) on behalf of Milton Keynes Council (MKC), will construct four new Affordable Homes on the land next to Germander Park School, and will be working closely with the school and neighbours to ensure the development takes place with the minimum of disruption.

Works on site commence around November, lasting approximately 40 weeks. MNH are also building for MKC 18 affordable rent apartments at Coltsfoot Place.

Work will be phased to ensure that pedestrian routes around the site are maintained, construction works will last approximately a year, with completion due around end of 2020. Regular letter drops to the surrounding properties to both sites will keep residents up to date with progress.

GET RECYCLING SORTED THIS CHRISTMAS!

Recycling is easier than ever today and in Great Linford we are lucky enough to work with Charity Recycling Milton Keynes, which takes all those pesky little items that aren't suitable for our recycling sacks. We have bins outside our GLPC office (during working hours) ready to gobble up Tassimo discs, trigger sprays and biscuit and crisp wrappers.

It's an easy way to do your bit for the environment and your donations generate charity cash for Willen Hospice and MK Cat Rescue.



Don't bin those crisp wrappers – recycle them at the Great Linford Parish Council office.

If you snack on the odd packet of crisps, please 'flat pack' the bags, don't knot them or they won't be suitable for recycling.

For more information visit *Charity Recycling MK on Facebook.*

NEATH HILL PARKING

In the spring issue of NbyNE GLPC highlighted the concerns of residents of Neath Hill about inconsiderate parking preventing delivery and refuse vehicles entering the Mews and Closes.

Milton Keynes Council (MKC) drew up a scheme for double yellow lines; and residents were consulted about the proposals. In order to make the scheme legal MKC have to undertake a statutory consultation before the double yellow lines can be painted on the roads.

MKC has now finalised the proposals to restrict parking on corners and is preparing a Traffic Regulation Order. Statutory consultation will be carried out soon on the scheme. This will be advertised on the MKC website and by public notices

which will be displayed along the affected lengths of road. Residents will be able to comment.

For more information contact TROteam@milton-keynes.gov.uk

TIME TO TALK

The Time to Talk event, organised in support of World Mental Health Day on October 10, was attended by more than 100 people and raised awareness of young people's mental health.

The event gave an opportunity to find out what Milton Keynes has to offer in the way of help, to speak with experts on the subject and to share concerns.

Thanks go to the many volunteers and guest speakers who gave their time, expertise and shared personal experiences to create this evening 'Breakfast Club' and gave hope to people in MK that help is out there.

Thanks also to the Mayor, Sam Crooks, who attended straight from a conference with European visitors where Great Linford Parish Council's Breakfast Club was raised as an example of good working practice that should be rolled out across Europe!



Mayor of Milton Keynes Cllr Sam Crooks with Cllr Ian Foskett.

One of the most potent messages that came out of the evening was from GLPC's partner in organising the event, Shanon Austin:

"Be kind, don't judge, take time to sit and talk. Always try to share what you have.

Put out a helping hand if you see someone in trouble – the benefits that individual gets can be the start of the journey to recovery, but for the giver the positive feedback can be just as powerful.

It's good to talk and it can start with a simple 'Good Morning – how are you?'

It's okay to not be okay. Talking can help."

If you find that you need help, some of the organisations to reach out to are:

Childline 0800 1111 Always open, website includes online counselling.

Hopeline UK 0800 068 41 41 If you are having suicidal thoughts.

Kooth Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people. Monday-Friday Noon-10pm and Saturday/Sunday 6-10pm.

The Samaritans 16 123 / jo@samaritans.org Always open.

Young Minds Crisis Messenger Text YM to 8525 for free, 24/7 crisis support.

Young Minds Parents Helpline 0808 802 5544 Monday-Friday 9:30am-4pm.

Shout Text Shout to 85258 24/7 service for anyone in crisis, anytime.

The Mix Text THE MIX to 85258. 24/7

crisis support for under 25s.

YiS (Youth Information Services)

Parish residents can refer themselves directly through our website www.great-linford.gov.uk/events/youth-information-service

HINDU TEMPLE UPDATE

The first phase of the building project (community hall, toilets, kitchen and office) is nearly complete.

Although work started on the Neath Hill temple in May 2018, the builder City Renovations, Bletchley, became insolvent in January 2019 and funds had to be raised to complete the work.

In July, a 6 kilometre sponsored redway walk from Willen Lake to the Neath Hill site and back raised £3,000 and work started again.



Cllr David Stabler was on hand to officiate at the fundraising walk in the summer.

David Stabler, GLPC Neath Hill Parish Councillor was Chief Guest on the walk.

"The event was very well attended by groups of people, families and individuals, including some from outside



Artists impression of the new Lidle store © Whittam Cox Architects.

the area which showed wide support for the project," said Cllr Stabler.

"Their community spirit and dedication to support the temple financially and practically impressed me," Dr Veeravahu said: "we appreciate the genuine concern and support expressed by the Neath Hill residents and Great Linford Parish Council members during the past six months and thank them gratefully."

LIDL FOOD STORE APPROVED

In September MK Planning Committee unanimously approved, subject to one abstention, the building of a Lidl food store on the north of Wolverton Road at Blakelands/Redhouse Park.

The store will have an adequate car park including dedicated bays for the disabled, parent and child and a couple of electric vehicle fast chargers; along with cycle parking spaces.

Part of the agreed development will be the much-needed redway linking Redhouse Park to Newport Pagnell under the M1.

Lidl will create up to 40 new

and finally...

Can you help spread a little **FESTIVE CHEER?**



Everyone loves Christmas, right? A time for family and friends, for feasting, reflecting on good times while making more memories, and of course the presents piled under the festive tree.

But for the less fortunate among us, Christmas can be the most difficult time of year. When many of us are splashing the cash and enjoying excess, some people in our community are wondering how they will even put a meal on the table on December 25.

In Milton Keynes, the Food Bank distributes around 1,000 food parcels a month to people referred to them by the wide range of public and charitable agencies that support people in need.

Each food parcel contains around 30 food items – the charity needs to collect around 36,000 items each month.

Families and individuals go hungry every day for many reasons; some people on a low income find it impossible to stretch their wage far enough, others might be dependent on delayed benefits.

Or perhaps an unexpected bill has cleared the bank account.

But Christmas is a time for giving and this year Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) is asking residents to consider contributing to a Reverse Advent Calendar for those less fortunate.

The idea is a simple one - every day for 25 days you simply place an item of tinned food into a box. Then, when you've stuffed it full of items, pop it along to the GLPC offices ready for collection by the local arm of The Food Bank.

Collection of the Reverse Advent

Calendars will begin at the offices on November 11. The last collection date will be December 17.

Even if you can't commit to collecting 25 items, you can drop an item into the GLPC office when you pass. Every donation will make a difference.

Your generosity will ensure that Christmas can be enjoyed instead of faced with dread by those in need. Surely that is the best present you can give?

Items suitable for the reverse advent calendar:

Non-perishable tinned items
Cereal • Sugar • Biscuits
Teabags and Coffee
Shower Gel • Shampoo
Toothpaste and toothbrushes



Local events to look out for

Join our Rangers 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, 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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