

# North**lo**y North**E**ast



News from your Parish Council

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

## Community boxing sessions promise to pack a punch!

See page 6



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.

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**Downs Barn**

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Vacancy

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Vacancy

**Redhouse Park**

Allan Calverley 07720 467334

**Willen Park South**

Vacancy



# spring 2020

## comment

### Change is coming – again!

In England there are some 100,000 Parish and Town Councillors working hard for their communities; for the betterment of their local area.

We, and they, do it because we feel passionately about the area we call home and want to ensure that it is the best it can be for everyone who lives here, works here or visits the area.

For more than 125 years Parish and Town Councils have been involved in communities. We deal with everything from community events and allotments to sports and community facilities, give grants and contribute much more besides. More and more frequently Parish Councils are stepping in to fill the void left by Borough or Unitary Councils and Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) is looking at how we can help assist residents. But, there needs to be an understanding that additional services and facilities will come at a cost to us all.

During the last decade, GLPC has changed significantly and some of these changes have been explained in the budget article (opposite) by Councillor Widdowson.

Another of our Councillors who has seen a great many changes is David Stabler. He joined us in 2001, but as a leap year baby has only just celebrated his 21st birthday! All of us at GLPC would like to thank Councillor Stabler for his valued contributions.

As the certainty of change continues, we acknowledge that the next 10 years will be quite different to those that have come before. There will undoubtedly be some challenges, but we will face them and continue to do the best for our community and our parishioners.

**Tony Bedford**  
**Chair, Great Linford Parish Council**



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

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**North by NorthEast**

Editor: Sammy Jones

**Front Cover:**

KKOTS Boxers, Photo by Sammy Jones

# Developing our BUDGET

Peter Widdowson, Parish Councillor for Giffard Park & Blakelands explains more about this year's Parish Council budget, and the cost to the taxpayer.



In my article about the budget at this time last year, I explained the mechanism for raising the funds to enable the Parish Council to provide activities in the community. I also laid out the general situation and how we could best respond.

This year, I want to explain to you the development programme we plan and where we intend to spend the precept, grants and developer funds during the coming year.

Successes to date have included young people being supported by Youth Information Service Counsellors, mobile cameras deterring and capturing fly-tipping pests, proactive help being provided to residents with issues around debt, tenancy and employment issues through the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Services to the community depend on facilities and to this end Great Linford Parish Council has actioned the delivery of a centre

on the Marsh Drive site and taking over the responsibility for the Giffard Park Community Centre – a successful venue failing through a lack of sufficient volunteers able to carry out management duties.

The aim is that both sites will become self-sufficient with profits used to deliver free activities and services such as Keeping Kids Off The Streets – a charity whose objective is to give young people purposeful activities and skills while making them feel wanted (see more on page 6).

In total, we will be spending £1.33 million in the coming year, a large slice of which is the developer money for the enhancement of Marsh Drive facilities for the specific benefit of residents in the north east area of Milton Keynes, as it is these communities whose development funds have made this possible on the Parish Council-owned land.

The contribution the Parish needs from you, the taxpayer, is £69.16 per year which is £4.65 more than last year.

The chart explains more about the expenditure, and further details can be found on the financial pages of the website: [www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)

**GLPC Precept 2020/21**

Costs to:	Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure
Run the council	269,033	3,509	265,525
Run the facilities and services	113,189	28,070	85,119
Run the community programme	45,420		45,420
Run and manage the projects	809,014	749,697	59,317
Carry out the asset maintenance	94,284		94,284
<b>Total budget expenditure/income</b>	<b>1,330,941</b>	<b>781,275</b>	<b>549,665</b>
Minus grant awarded from MK Council		19,948	
Minus GLPC's reserves spent on projects/assets		100,014	
<b>Precept raised from the GLPC community</b>			<b>429,703</b>

PROPERTY GREENSPACES COUNSELLING COMMUNITY SUPPORT LANDSCAPING PRECEPT SPORTS GROUNDS  
YOUR VIEWS RANGERS ALLOTMENTS COUNCILLORS COMMUNICATION EVENTS MEETING PLACES BREAKFAST CLUB

**GLPC ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** see [great-linford.gov.uk](http://great-linford.gov.uk) for venue details



# GET MOVING!

## Parish residents encouraged to shake a leg for the European City of Sport

To celebrate Milton Keynes being named European City of Sport for 2020, we are being asked to show the sporty side of Great Linford Parish.

In December Milton Keynes Mayor Councillor Sam Crooks made the trip to Brussels to accept the accolade for MK.

On January 20, Milton Keynes Council launched a year-long challenge inviting people to do '20 in 20' and highlighted the fact that being physically active can be fun and enjoyable. Councillor Crooks led the way by promising to take up a new sport, and asked parishioners for suggestions. If you didn't make the pledge earlier in the year, you've still got time to make amends.

"It really doesn't matter if you haven't already pledged," Sam said, "there is still plenty of time to step up. We want everyone – individuals of all ages and abilities, families, friendship groups, schools, businesses, clubs and organisations - to be more active or to make it easier for others to be more active."

"It is wonderful for Milton Keynes to have won the European City of Sport title, and I want as many people as possible to seize the opportunity. Of course, sporting activities benefit our physical and mental wellbeing too. It is not just about embracing sport for this year though, but rather using the year as a building block for the future legacy of sport and physical activity in Milton Keynes, including here in this Parish," Sam added.



ABOVE: New City Cricket Club.

TOP RIGHT: Great Linford Tennis Club.

RIGHT: MK Mayor Sam Crooks (centre) in Brussels accepting the European City of Sport accolade for 2020.

## Get involved:

Marsh Drive Sports Ground is a jewel in the sporting crown of our parish and is utilised by many groups including MK Dons Ladies Reserves and Girls Teams, and Great Linford Football Club.

For opportunities in tennis, football and cricket, check out the following:

Anyone who enjoys the ace game of tennis should consider making a connection with Great Linford Tennis Club (GLTC). Whether on your own or with family or friends and regardless of experience, you'll be warmly welcomed.



GLTC offers three floodlit hard courts, facilities and a range of membership opportunities.

Contact: [info@greatlinfordtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@greatlinfordtennisclub.co.uk) or call Matt on 07912 945626.

Great Linford Football Club was formed more than 25 years ago as a club to serve our community. Its teams span junior and youth age bands and it also runs one adult ladies team and one adult mens team covering an age range from five to 40 years old! It currently supports eight sides across four different leagues.



Contact via [www.greatlinfordfc.com](http://www.greatlinfordfc.com)

Established in the early 1980s, New City Cricket Club has two Saturday league teams and always welcomes new players.

For more information visit [newcity.play-cricket.com](http://newcity.play-cricket.com) or email [jacotheron2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jacotheron2000@yahoo.co.uk)



Only pre booked games may be played at Marsh Drive Sports Ground, Ad hoc games of football and cricket may be played; subject to pitch availability. To check if a pitch can be booked call 01908 606613 or visit [www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)

To enquire about casual games of tennis (at £8 per hour) call Caretaker Sally on 07751 039209.

# Introducing...

Great Linford Parish Council is pleased to introduce two new councillors this issue. A warm welcome to Sofia Gallo and Patricia Lawar. Here they are with a little introduction of their own...

Great Linford Parish Council



Great Locality Proud Community

## Councillor Sofia Gallo, Downhead Park & Willen Park North



Nearly ten years ago I moved to Milton Keynes and I immediately fell in love; with the multicultural feel, the green areas, the redways

and yes, the roundabouts for which MK is famous.

Since becoming a mum I have had the opportunity to learn more about the community and although I am now back at work, I have enjoyed my time volunteering; whether through my music in support of Time to Talk (an event to share and talk about mental health in young people), or in support of Willen Hospice, thanks to a theatrical performance!

Becoming a Parish Councillor is the next step forward and I find the possibility of having a voice and being able to make a difference in the community very rewarding.

As a mum and a parent governor at a local primary school, my interest is young people and their education and well-being.

Recently I have been involved with a safe parking campaign to promote sensible parking around

school premises and I initiated a Crowdfunding campaign to raise funds in support of this.

I am also very fond of architecture - repurposing empty buildings is another one of my passions.

As I am very new to the role of a councillor, I am enjoying learning from my colleagues who have been with the Parish Council for longer, and am looking forward to the year ahead, the projects and ultimately the results it brings.

## Councillor Patricia Lawar, Pennyland & Bolbeck Park



I took on the role of a councillor at the end of October last year as I have always had an interest in my local community.

Previously I took part in the 'Clean for the Queen' Keep Britain Tidy initiative in Great Linford which inspired me. I also sat on the board of members responsible for Phase 1 of the ROCLA art trail.

Before I came to Milton Keynes I lived in London and gave my time to support organisations there; volunteering with the Family Welfare Association (FWA) who provide assistance to families in need of housing, food and money, and who

sometimes need help with third party organisations.

I have an interest in mental health and after my time working with FWA I became a volunteer trustee and chairperson for the Community Support Network, providing mental health advocacy in the community and in hospitals and prisons.

I moved to Milton Keynes in 2009 and have since volunteered at the Citizen Advice Bureau.

My areas of special interest are widespread and varied. There are vulnerable families, children and young people together with an ageing population living in the Great Linford Parish and across Milton Keynes.

I am enjoying finding out more about where we live, engaging with the people in the Parish and understanding more about the issues that matter to them.

# The fight against antisocial behaviour

The problem of congregating youths and antisocial behaviour in the Parish is nothing new, but the needless vandalism is upsetting for residents and costly to repair and replace.

A recent example was the damage caused to the slide in the popular play park at Marsh Drive Sports Ground which occurred just before Christmas.

Vickie Kilbey regularly used the play area with her three children and took these images of the damage.

"It is really upsetting and unnecessary and I feel sad for the kids," Vickie said. "A lot of people use that park – parents would take their children to play there after school and people would enjoy picnics there, it was a chunky slide and thick plastic. It would have taken such a lot of effort to break it. It is the violence behind it that really disturbs me," Vickie added.

Milton Keynes Council arranged to have the slide replaced, at a cost of £1500.



Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Doc De Villiers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) explained about the nuisance of antisocial behaviour (ASB) – and how they tackle issues.

'ASB are actions that harm or lack consideration for the well-being of others. It has also been defined as any type of conduct that violates the basic rights of another person and any behaviour that is considered disruptive to others in society.

They can be carried out in various ways, including intentional aggression, as well as covert and overt hostility.

Antisocial behaviour also develops through social interaction within the family and community.

The NPT for the Parish, whether Police Officers or PCSOs, would generally deal with ASB by deciding if the incident requires urgent attention or can be managed by slow time enquiries, where necessary working with Partner Agencies.

Officers are required to conduct a risk assessment regarding personal ASB which is then recorded as high, medium or standard, to determine how the incident is progressed.

NPTs are aware of the issues that are of most concern to this community and will target hot spots while on control.'



Great Linford Parish Council awarded a £1500 grant to KKOTS, which was proposed by Conniburrow councillor Brent Johnston.

"For me KKOTS deserved the grant as they are a great charity tackling some of the big issues we have in our parish," he said. "We have a lack of activities for younger teenagers and children, which has allowed for more antisocial behaviour to occur. KKOTS also facilitates youngsters from low income households to take part. In many of our estates, especially the one I represent, low income households are prevalent and children from disadvantaged homes wouldn't usually have access to this type of activity."

Brent added: "Having worked with Karl as a councillor and getting to know him away from the Council, I've seen the work he has put in to help those less fortunate. He is now bringing that drive and ethos into our parish. We need more people like Karl and his charity. I was proud to propose we give KKOTS the grant and know it will go a long way in helping those who need it most."

**Could you benefit from a community grant?**

For details see News & Views on page 11.



# COMMUNITY BOXING SESSIONS

promise to be a knockout success!

At a time when there is a worrying upward trend in knife crime and antisocial behaviour, it is hoped that these sessions will prove to be the perfect antidote.

The venture is part of the Keeping Kids Off The Streets (KKOTS) organisation. Following similar successful launches elsewhere in Milton Keynes, classes began in Great Linford in January.

"Kids can be hyper and these classes allow them to let off steam, give them discipline and something to focus on, and they are a positive distraction," says KKOTS founder Karl Hanif.

He has long known the impact the sport can have – his son Qasim took up boxing as an eight-year-old. It took him away from the endless hours he was spending playing computer games and it gave him some direction.

"My son and the others who took up boxing classes all went to university, and some are now in the army. Those classes kept my son on the straight and narrow and he's now in training to become a lawyer."

Tellingly, Qasim has kept up the boxing discipline and still trains regularly – he also leads some of the classes in the Parish.

Importantly, Karl's sessions are free to attend and open to boys and girls. "Affordability is a huge factor in the success of these clubs," he said. "Some of the communities that benefit the most couldn't afford to send their youngsters if these sessions had to be paid for. That's not an issue at KKOTS which is free for everyone."

The classes have largely been self-funded by Karl, who has a team of volunteers ready to shake buckets at community events, which helps to bring in some money. Great Linford Parish Council has also swelled the coffers for KKOTS with a very welcome £1500 grant. That money has been used to purchase necessary equipment for the sessions.

Sadly, knife crime incidents are on the rise among the young and horror stories are becoming more frequent. Karl says these training sessions are a way to escape the gang pressures. "Today's kids are very scared, that's why they are carrying knives. Most of them don't

A new boxing club for youngsters is packing a punch in our community

want to do that. This gets them away from that mentality. Boxing isn't just about the physical side; it is about their mindset too; they know that they can handle themselves responsibly. You only have to see those who come to the clubs. They are changed kids. Their parents see those changes in their children every day and bring them back to us every week. It's an amazing transformation."

Suzanne Harvey's 10-year-old son Lochlainn has been attending sessions elsewhere in the town for several months and now attends the Great Linford classes too. "It's all about the fact of keeping kids off the streets and giving them something to do," Suzanne said, "It's not about teaching them to fight. This is about stamina and about exercise. It will help them to defend themselves

if they need to, but they will know that boxing is not something to be used in the playground, that it is only a defence mechanism."

She added: "Karl does so much for the community, including boxing and football. It's an excellent thing. We need to get business backing now, so that he can get sponsorship to build his own building, which is his goal."

TOP: Boxing clever, Karl and Qasim. BELOW: Youngsters love the boxing club.



The free weekly boxing sessions run every Saturday at the Memorial Hall in Great Linford (Marsh Drive, MK14 5AX). 10am-11am (ages 6-10 years) & 11am-Midday (ages 10-18 years)

For more details visit [keepingkidsoffthestreets.co.uk](http://keepingkidsoffthestreets.co.uk) or search FB for Keeping Kids Off The Streets.





# CRIME fighting

with new  
Facebook  
initiative for  
the Parish

by Councillor Whelan



**W**elcome to a new initiative by Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) - the new GLPC NHW Member Group.

Over the last few months, some councillors have noticed that Neighbourhood Watch has been a little left behind in our digital world. Many different groups have been created either on Facebook or Instagram or WhatsApp. While that is necessary and a good thing, it has only put information out to certain people or groups. GLPC felt it was time to trial a new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme through three phases.

The first phase is building a foundation, so we've opted to connect and build this vital platform on Facebook (FB). This is a closed group and questions must be answered before you can join.

Admin and moderators will protect and serve the page by allowing posts to be uploaded by members only. You will have to be a member to see posts and to post. Members will abide by basic rules and if the admin team feel any post is abusive or breaks privacy rules, it will be removed. If a member continues to violate basic values, they will be suspended or in the longer term expelled from the group for repeat offences.

The success of this is vital to ensure we can build on this FB foundation as we want to include people and residents who do not have social media or internet access but first the success of this rests with you, the resident.

The second phase will include how to get information out to people who don't have easy access to the platforms. Again, if we can exceed

expectations and push boundaries to involve people in where they live, in conjunction with the police, GLPC website and FB page we can continue to build onto phase three – and start reaching out to neighbouring parishes and organisations.

We want to build the site so we can get discounts and freebie advice from organisations that help us 'love where we live'.

We also aim to add good news and community spirit items to the site to help make you feel good about yourself, your family and your community. It's not all bad news!

**Knowledge is power.** Together we can make it difficult for crime to prosper. If one more door gets locked at night, one less car gets broken into and one more fly tipper gets to experience a fine, then we're winning.

Lastly, remember crime and antisocial behaviour is a blight on us all so always report it through the relevant sources such as 101 or www.police.uk

If you don't log it, who will know? Police have always had limited resources so they will always focus on crime hotspots, and yes, that is the crime that has been logged and reported. **If a crime is in progress you should still dial 999.**

Together, we can be safer, more secure and reach each other quicker. Co-operation and collaboration is key.

Apply for membership on FB now! Search **GLPC NHW Member Group**



# NEW TOWN ARCHITECT & parish protector

David Stabler doesn't just talk a good game, he gets the job done. For almost two decades he has volunteered his time as a councillor with Great Linford Parish Council, and he does it for the benefit of the area we all call home, not for any personal aggrandisement.

**D**avid was a leap year baby and celebrated his 84th birthday on February 29 this year. We wanted to mark the occasion by celebrating a few of his many achievements so far.

Those who have worked with him, or experienced his boundless energy, will testify that David's work ethic and speed at getting things done is enviable.

Work on the new town brought him to the area, but he is a proud Yorkshireman and can trace his roots there back to the 1600s. His father owned a chocolate factory and at school David's deliveries of tins of chocolate biscuits made him popular among his peers in wartime Britain!

In 1954 he began a six year study period at Leeds School of Architecture. 'Just' being a student wasn't enough though; he held editorial posts on the arts journal and was Treasurer of the student union. It's fair to say that he liked getting in amongst the action from an early age!

Working life began in 1960 and he spent a decade in private practices, dealing with design and construction of buildings including schools and factories, and battled destruction of his historic home town York by insensitive road improvements.

As the new decade began David joined Derek Walker's team in Milton Keynes. Derek was the chief architect and planner of the new town and David worked as a project architect, then an area team leader at Milton Keynes Development Corporation (MKDC) until 1980 when he moved into position as a marketing executive

with MKDC. David's talent was called upon to attract IT companies and then to manage Japanese operations, encouraging companies from the East Asian region to settle here. David continued his Japanese role with the 'Commission for the New Towns.' He left in 1998 by which time a staggering 60 Japanese companies had invested in MK!

Wherever he is, he makes his presence felt; from 1997 to 2001 he was a member of the Neath Hill Residents Association and lobbied MK Council for action on those familiar annoyances, dog fouling and graffiti. Thanks to his work a citywide dog fouling order was established and the graffiti team was formed.

David has worked as a councillor in our parish since 2001 and has been the lead councillor for planning for much of that time. He is one of the councillors who successfully lobbied MKDC to introduce standards to control Houses in Multiple Occupation (HiMOs), but there are so many other achievements (like helping to found the Public Arts Trust and spending a decade editing this newsletter) that are too numerous to list in their entirety.

David – who has been married to Muriel for nearly 60 years - makes the most of his leisure time, enjoying travelling and spending time with his grandchildren.

Great Linford Parish Manager Eirwen Tagg has worked with David for 12 years. "He was one of the reasons I joined the Council," she said. "It has not always been an easy working relationship – the emotional Welsh lass and the blunt Yorkshire man have often clashed," she admits, "but we resolve our issues for the benefit of the community and as you will see from the achievements of the Council, David has been at the forefront of turning many of those ideas into actions. He has always been one of the most dedicated, committed, focused councillors I have had the pleasure of working and learning with."

BELOW LEFT: At the cutting edge of IT in 1982. CENTRE: Planning for Milton Keynes, 1985. RIGHT: Celebrating 20 years at MK Development Corporation.



## 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

glpc@  
great-linford.gov.uk

## ONLINE ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES WITH GLPC

There are many different channels for communicating with residents.

At the moment Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) uses this NorthbyNorthEast magazine; delivered to every house in the Parish by community groups three times a year, this provides the printed word and scope for in-depth articles.

There is also a monthly e-newsletter, Facebook, our website, numerous noticeboards and twitter (spasmodically at the moment).

We know these are often the places where residents also hope to find details of local businesses and traders offering services.

GLPC has previously resisted frequent requests to consider advertising in NbyNE and other media; as the process is both time consuming and resource hungry.

However with the new website we could, for a small fee, create a dedicated area where residents source this information.

We have agreed to create a business web page where, for £2.50 per week, GLPC will advertise local firms and traders offering services.

If you are interested in advertising email  
glpc@great-linford.gov.uk

## LINFORD MANOR'S ROCK 'N' ROLL HISTORY

A new book which charts the history of music in Milton Keynes is coming soon – and it features a chapter on the music that was recorded at Great Linford Manor.

During its time as a top-flight residential studio, the manor welcomed artists as diverse as former Sex Pistols front man John Lydon and violinist Nigel Kennedy.

'Milton Keynes – Wired For Sound' was written by NorthbyNorthEast editor Sammy Jones.

For more details and stockist information email  
wiredforsoundmk@gmail.com

## WELCOME OUR NEW RANGER

We are pleased to announce our new parish ranger Jake Wilson, who started with us in February.

Jake grew up in the countryside in Sussex, before moving to Milton Keynes seven years ago.

His background is in farming and he travelled the world doing similar work before settling in the new town where he started up a fencing business.



New parish Ranger Jake Wilson.

That work brought him into contact with the Great Linford Parish Council, and when he found out about the ranger position, he jumped at the chance.

"As soon as it was announced, I knew it was the job for me," he told NorthbyNorthEast.

"It gets me back into outside work and it's really nice to be able to put something back into the community."

Jake quickly got hands on too - the recent storms and bad weather resulted in lots of work in tree and path clearing, although his role really involves a little bit of everything to do with the Parish.

If you see Jake out and about, please make him feel welcome.

## DO YOU KNOW A PARISH GUARDIAN?

Parish Guardians give to the community and we want to say thank you to them for being proactive and tackling issues.

Is there someone out there who you think goes above and beyond to help in the Parish?



Social Media - keep it friendly!

If so, let us know who it is and why you feel they deserve to be recognised. Email glpc@great-linford.gov.uk before 10 April for them to be in with a chance of recognition at the Annual Meeting for residents on Monday 18th May.

## CONNIBURROW PLAYING FIELDS

MK Council say that the playing field behind the Conniburrow Pavilion is open access public land and should be available to residents to use at any time; unless formal sport or activity is taking place.



On the 27th November 2019, Council unanimously agreed that GLPC should write to councillor Moriah Priestley: Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Community Partnerships, which covers Leisure and

Community Assets; requesting that the pedestrian gate at the side of the pavilion should remain unlocked with a sign on the gate saying: 'These playing fields may be used without charge by members of the public at any time unless a formal sport or other activity is taking place.'

A response is awaited from Councillor Priestley.

## SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Social media can make us feel connected to others in the community, which gives a sense of belonging. But it can also make us feel isolated and give the impression that everyone else is having a better time than we are. It can increase our confidence or destroy it.

We can use it to make and lose friends.

The one thing to remember is once you've put something 'out there', you can't take it back.

Are we always kind in our comments and criticisms? Can we turn that negative into a positive? It's free, it's fun, it keeps us in touch and up to date. But an easy rule to remember while online, and

certainly while engaging with the GLPC platforms, is if you wouldn't say it to someone's face, don't say it on social media.

## COMMUNITY GRANT SUPPORT

A reminder that the Parish Council holds a small pot of money for grants each year.

In 2019, we awarded money to Milton Keynes Melting Pot and Friends of Conniburrow Centre (for details see the last edition of NorthbyNorthEast) and also supported Friends of Great Linford Manor Park, for an art project.

Conditions apply and certain criteria must be proved before the money – usually a few hundred pounds – is awarded.

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

If you think you fit all the criteria and would be interested in applying for a grant visit [www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk) for an application form.

## RELIEF FROM FINANCIAL ISSUES

If you are in difficult financial circumstances and have a particular need that cannot be met by an official agency out of public funds, the small Great Linford Relief in Need (GLRiN) charity may be able to assist.

GLRiN was formed out of

several old charities, including Sir William Pritchard's Almshouses, which dates back to 1702.

Often another charity or publicly funded agency contacts GLRiN when they are unable to help with a particular problem. So if you are in touch with an organisation like Citizen Advice Bureau it might be worth checking to see if GLRiN can help.

They are unable to write off debts, or pay for things that are covered by usual benefits, but in recent times have helped with the purchase of household equipment, including a replacement fridge freezer and car seat modification for someone with mobility difficulties.

Applicants must live on one of the estates within the Great Linford Parish.

For more information call 01908 482520 or 01908 605664.



A residential recording studio was housed at Linford Manor.

and finally...

# How things have CHANGED...

**A question for you: What do the MK Pensioners Association, Peartree Pond and parking issues have in common?**

**Answer:** They all featured in the first edition of the Great Linford Parish Council newsletter, which was issued in the summer of 2002.

The newsletter, a forerunner of NorthbyNorthEast, was called News & Views and one of the councillors responsible for compiling and sharing the information was Councillor David Stabler: "It was the first attempt to keep parishioners informed about the council and the works planned for the area," David remembered.

Incredibly, when that newsletter made its way through letterboxes, Great Linford

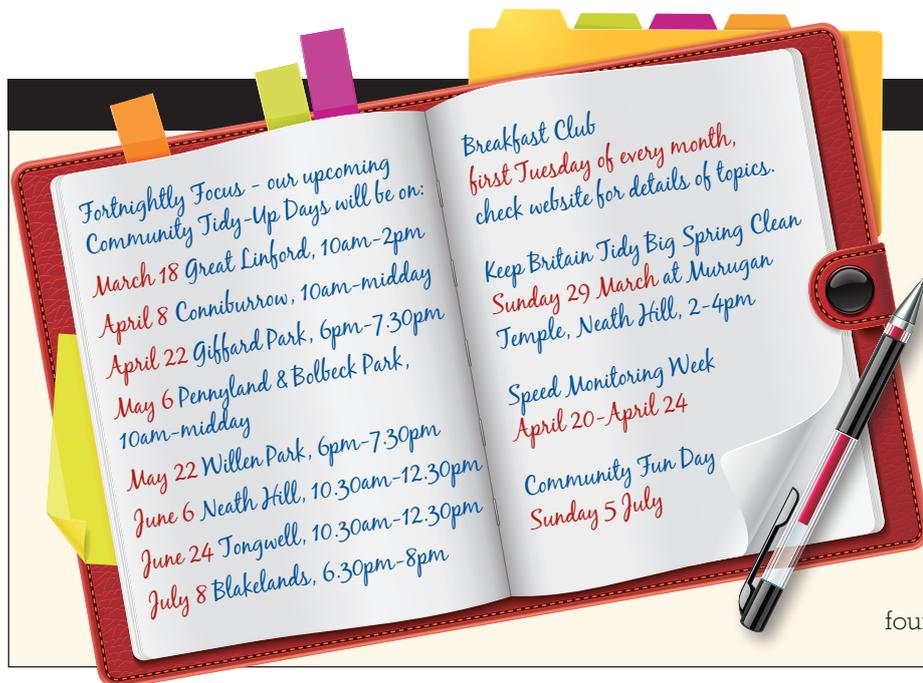
Parish Council operated without email, a web site or Facebook page (remember those clutter free days before social media?).

Furthermore, there was no Parish office either!

It's fair to say that things have moved on somewhat in the years that have followed that first edition, and we are proud to have been one of the first councils who encourage residents to help keep the area clean by becoming Parish Guardians and created a five week long Summer of Fun play activity programme for children during the holidays.

Sadly, some of the issues then still irritate parishioners today (blocking driveways and

'mashing up' grass verges and faulty street lights), but no matter what else changes, we will never stray from our purpose – of making the Parish a pleasant place to live for all. You have our word on that.



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 our fortnightly focus on a good 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](http://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](http://www.egp.uk.com)