



Great Linford Parish Council

BSERVER

Issue One

December 2002

Dear Residents

Welcome to the new format Parish Council newsletter. In this edition we have addressed a few general issues and local news items but we hope, in future, to include contributions from people living and working in the Parish. If you would like to contribute or advertise please send your article to the Parish Clerk, Jenny Sharp, at the address on page three.

Moving on to other matters. As Christmas draws ever closer, this seems a good place to mention the St Andrew's Church Preservation fund which has been set up. Several Councillors are involved with this in their own right but I would like to reinforce the importance of this 1,000 year-

old building in our community. The article on page 7 expands fully on the problems facing the church.



As ever, we are trying to raise funds for charitable groups and organisations. To help in this effort we are arranging a St Valentines Day Dance on Friday 14th February 2003 at the Memorial Hall in Great Linford. Tickets will be available from the Parish Clerk at £15.00 per person to include a buffet meal.

Although there is much more I could say all that I would ask is that you read the "Observer" and that all constructive comments are very welcome. Finally, on behalf of myself, all the Councillors and the Clerk of Great Linford Parish Council, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Cllr Claudine Elliott

Chair, Great Linford Parish Council

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We are holding a St Valentine's Day Dance to help raise funds for charities and community organisations within the parish of Great Linford. The venue is the Memorial Hall, Great Linford, 7.15pm for 8.00pm on Friday 14th February 2003. Tickets are available for tables or individually at £15.00 per person. This includes a buffet meal and dancing to "Total Eclipse". The evening should be an enjoyable event so if you want to join us please contact the Parish Clerk, Jenny Sharp. Tel: 01908 217752 or write to PO Box 7085, Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes MK13 0YA.

St Andrew's C.E. First School

The school has a long history of academic achievement, and the dedicated staff help to ensure that every child is valued, happy and fulfilled.

The small classes are an advantage in that the positive teacher/pupil ratio can ensure that individual needs are met. The school has a welcoming warm atmosphere and at present there are a few vacancies.

Parents may wish to contact the Head Teacher, Mrs R. Pichowski, for further enquiries.

*St Andrew's C.E. First School,
High Street, Great Linford Village,
Milton Keynes MK14 5AX
Tel: 01908 605515*

Milton Keynes Pensioner's Association (MKPA)

Last February, a group of Milton Keynes pensioners formed the Milton Keynes Pensioners' Association (MKPA). Quite a few of these founder members are residents of Great Linford Parish. As an affiliated group of the National Pensioners' Convention, the MKPA participates in national campaigns such as the restoration of the link between the basic state pension and average earnings. At the annual three-day Pensioners' Parliament in Blackpool issues of concern are discussed and ideas are shared in an atmosphere of genuine friendship. The

NPC is the only national camping group in the country that is run by pensioners for pensioners. At a local level, the MKPA is active in promoting the NPC's message and in lobbying the Local Authority on those issues which affect pensioners.

Membership forms can be obtained from the MKPA Membership Secretary at 87 Orne Gardens, Bolbeck Park, Milton Keynes, MK15 8PG (a stamped, self-addressed envelope would be appreciated).

(Article by MKPA)

Who's Who on Great Linford Parish Council?



Left to Right

Seated: *Cllr George Byfield, Cllr Gillian Hobson, Mrs Jenny Sharp (Parish Clerk),
Cllr Claudine Elliott (Chair), Cllr Peter Billups (Vicechair)*

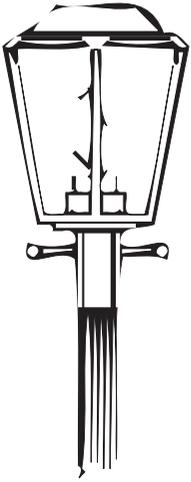
Standing: *Cllr Alan Pugh, Cllr Charles Allum, Cllr Mike Pendry, Cllr Mohammed Nawaz,
Cllr Brian Morsley, Cllr John McLinton, Cllr David Stabler*

Not Pictured: *Cllr David Enticknap, Cllr Sue Williams, Cllr Bob Benning, Cllr John Figg, Cllr Alan Wright,
Cllr David Lovesy*

To contact the Parish Clerk, Jenny Sharp, please telephone 01908 217752 or write to PO Box 7085, Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes MK13 0YA

Kate Guiney, a pupil of Ousedale School won the teddy bear in our 'Guess the name of the Bear' competition on the Parish Council stall at the Waterside Festival on Saturday 22nd June. Kate has decided that 'Montague' will have pride of place alongside her own teddy bear collection. Proceeds from this will be given to local charities and organisations.





LIGHTS OUT?

Every lamppost has a number so call Milton Keynes Council who will respond to a report of 'lights out'. Telephone 01908 252823 or e-mail the Council at street.lighting@milton-keynes.gov.uk

DROPPING OFF THE KIDS

Residents in Neath Hill came to a local Parish Councillor asking if something could be done about the parking, when parents drop off or pick up their kids at school. Driveways were blocked, verges were being mashed up and the road restricted by double parking.

Discussions have taken place with the Headteacher's of Brooksward and St Monica's, and Milton Keynes Council's Road Safety Officer. The situation has improved and both Schools are drawing up 'A School Travel Plan' in line with MK Council's Sustainable Transport Policy. We would like to thank however, those residents who have always parked with safety and consideration.

DJC AUTOS

AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERS

ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS
TO ALL MAKES OF VEHICLES



THE GARAGES,
STATION ROAD,
NEWPORT PAGNELL,
BUCKS. MK16 0AG

Telephone: 01908 612871
Mobile: 0378 219848



KERBS AND PAVEMENTS

During the winter the verges become very wet and are easily damaged. Deep ruts caused by vehicles parking are almost impossible to repair and look very unsightly, please do not drive or park on verges. There is also an ongoing problem of cars parking on pavements. Causing the obstruction of a pavement is an offence and can lead to a fine, please therefore if you have allocated parking, use it.

PEARTREE POND

- 25 YEARS ON -

Article by Alan Senior, Peartree Pond Association

Over 25 years ago, at the new Local Centre in Great Linford, the MK Development Corporation constructed a landscaped pond on the site of Peartree Pond as shown on medieval maps of the area.

The Pond suffered in the early days from leakage, lack of water infeed, litter and some wanton vandalism. It was even suggested that it might be “concreted” in.

A group of residents got together to do something about it, got the Pond repaired, cleaned it up and took on responsibility for the regular tidying of it and for operating the fountain daily.

In 1989 Great Linford Parish Council formally adopted the Pond and set aside some funds for its upkeep. Since then we have seen mains water supply for emergency topping-up, and recently a major repair to the V8 side bank and the righting, after some years, of the small commemorative stone at the “Bottle” corner.

A large number of bricks and bottles were cleared whilst the water was lowered, along with a bizarre collection of debris but most of it had been there some time and there is less evidence of recent littering and damage.

The bank has been returfed, water levels are back to maximum, the benches have had a lick of paint, and the Pond is generally looking splendid amongst the colours of autumn.

Ducks have made it their home and swans have come back to breed for the last ten years. The Linford terrapin still surfaces and there are varying tales of what fish have been sighted.

Every community needs its focal point and whilst the High Street and Pub still provide that for the “old” village, there is no doubt that the Pond provides a delightful centrepiece for the local centre and a place to meet, sit, feed the ducks or just chat a while. Residents from Fulwell Court, regulars at the Pilgrim’s Bottle, customers and staff at the Co-op and a host of passers-by have all said how pleasant it is to have this little “oasis” on our doorstep.

Peartree Pond has proved to be a great example of Parish Council and residents working together to provide and maintain an enjoyable amenity for the whole community.

UNDER 16'S COMPETITION

Just answer these two questions and the first correct entry drawn will win a HMV voucher!

- 1) Where is Peartree Pond?
- 2) What are the two dates mentioned on the memorial stone?

Send your answers by 10th January 2003 to the Parish Clerk, PO Box 7085, Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes MK13 0YA.



There are three Community Beat Officers covering the Parish of Great Linford.

PC Dave Monkhouse covers Conniburrow, Downs Barn, Downhead Park and Willen Park.

PC Tim Puleston covers Neath Hill, Bolbeck Park and Pennyland.

WPC Lindsey Tew covers Great Linford, Blakelands and Giffard Park.

The Community Officers attend Parish Council meetings and are in regular contact with the area Residents Associations. They can be contacted at Thames Valley Police in Central Milton Keynes on 01908 686000.

WPC 4238 Lindsey Tew has just joined us, and felt you should know a little something about her:

"I have worked for Thames Valley Police since September 1997 and have completed three years as a response officer and three years as a local officer.

I am keen to become involved in local activities with both the youngsters and other locally organised events, so any ideas, please let me know."

Thanks, Lindsey, and welcome to the Parish!



General Maintenance Home and Garden

Richard Sharp

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Milton Keynes MK14 5JW

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Mobile: 07703 680797

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GREAT LINFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The W.I. was formed by a group of women, of varying ages, when Milton Keynes was a new town. The meetings were originally held in the Memorial Hall, Great Linford – it was so cold that we had to wear coats!!

We now meet in Fulwell Court, an extremely comfortable and welcoming venue.

This year was our 20th birthday, celebrated in style! We had a three-course dinner and birthday cake, for all members.

The programme is varied and interesting, our speakers have covered a wide range of subjects, i.e. History of Nursery Rhymes, The Roly Polies, Boots Health and Beauty, Earth's Crystals, a Drug Prison Officer and his dog and many more.

Fundraising activities have included Fish and Chip Suppers, Bring and Buy and a Dutch Auction, to mention but a few.

We meet at Fulwell Court, St. Leger Drive, Great Linford on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding August), at 7.45 p.m. We welcome new members, why not come along and see if you like us? Telephone either 01908 664409 or 01908 674310.

ST ANDREW'S PRESERVATION FUND

48,000 Sundays of History – How many more? 100? 1000? 10000?

For a thousand years St Andrews' has stood proud, as part of the heritage of Great Linford village in the idyllic setting of the Manor Park. Through wars, famine, plague and times of plenty the building has acted a symbol of stability in an uncertain world, serving the community in times of celebration and sadness; a place of continuity for worship, christenings, marriages and burials.

We need to act to preserve this treasure for our community, to enjoy it now as well as save it for generations to come. Several local community leaders have kindly agreed to help set up and assist

with the running of the St Andrew's Church Preservation Fund which is being formed to raise revenue to repair the ravages of time. This is now urgent, as we need a starting fund/reserve of £30,000 to repair the crumbling stonework.

We need the village to work together in securing the future of this historic building, and therefore we are asking you to make a Gift Aid contribution to the Fund. If you would like to help in this way then please contact us and we will provide you with the appropriate form.

NEATH HILL



Great British Takeaway

**AT NEATH HILL
LOCAL CENTRE
TEL: 230718**

Vinnie Petrie, a pupil of Giffard Park School was lucky in a ballot to be part of the relay team to carry the Queen's Jubilee Baton for a short while on Saturday 29th June.

The baton, with a Police escort, passed through Great Linford Parish on its journey around the country which ended in Manchester for the start of the Commonwealth Games.



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Within the Great Linford Parish, we have three sports areas:

High Street-Great Linford: The cricket ground is used each weekend during the summer by three cricket teams, who also use the facilities provided in the pavilion. The pavilion is also available for meetings and childrens parties, with a maximum number of 60 persons.

Marsh Drive-Great Linford: This consists of four football pitches currently used during the winter by one adult team and a number of Great Linford football club youth teams. During the summer months cricket is played by two local teams, New City Cricket Club and Great Linford Cricket Club. The tennis courts are available for hire via Great Linford Tennis Club, full membership is also available through them.

Downs Barn Sports Centre: This facility has one full size, one junior and two nursery 7 size football pitches, currently used during the season by Downs Barn Football Club. There are also tennis courts for public usage. The pavilion is available for hire for meetings, childrens parties although it should be noted that the room is on the first floor and may not be suitable for very young children and those who have problems with stairs.

For further information on the above facilities, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01908 217752, during office hours.

**The Street
Where You Live...**

Many of the city grid square names and main road names have local historical connections. For example, Giffard Park is an 11th Century name. Walter Giffard, Lord of Longueville in Normandy was Commander of the Norman Army at Hastings in 1066. After the Conquest he was the major non-royal landowner in England. His main estates were in Buckinghamshire including the Manor in Linford. So perhaps there is a lot more of Europe in some of us than we think!

Conniburrow is derived from a 1641 map reference 'Conni Borough Hill'.

Marsh Drive was described in a map name area of 1641 as a 'common sward of marsh'.

Woad Lane. Woad was a blue dye produced in Great Linford into the 19th Century.

Hartley. Adapted from a map description 'land on which deer were found'. A Hart is a young deer. The Pipard family who owned the Manor of Linford from the late 1100s to the early 1300s kept deer in Linford Wood.

We hope to find space in the Parish Council Magazine to tell more of the history of Great Linford and the Street Where you Live.

