

Corona virus hits The News

SADLY for the first time in over 30 years, we are unable to deliver a hard copy of the Linton News as we did not want to put our vulnerable deliverers at risk. However the April issue is online at www.thelintonnews.co.uk but here in an abridged version to print out legibly.

Linton Community Help team

IN collaboration with the Parish Council and other key local organisations, we have set up a Linton Community Help team. This is a team of volunteers around the village who will be working to support you during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The team can help with:

- Picking up Prescriptions
- Shopping
- Dog Walking / Pet Services
- Social contact by phone
- Concerns eg feeding yourself / your family (we have set up a food bank)
- Other suitable requests

Where possible, all community activity to help people will be co-ordinated centrally to avoid duplication. This does not mean you can't help your neighbours out – it would be useful to know if there is any kind of locally organised help going on eg if your whole street has set something up so that we can work together and not duplicate.

If you would like help of any kind and do not have access to email, call us on 01223 901132

GRANTA Medical Practices

UNFORTUNATELY the number of people affected by the coronavirus causing Covid-19 is increasing rapidly **Up to-date-information:**

NHS websites provide up-to-date information about the national situation and plans and health advice. At Granta we will be keeping our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk updated regularly to reflect the local situation and our actions at Granta, along with our social media accounts. We may also use text messaging to mobile phones to communicate any urgent messages. Please let us know if you have changed your mobile number or have one that you haven't yet told us about.

Prioritisation:

The current evidence is that for the vast majority of the population the Covid-19 virus is a mild illness which can be safely managed at home with rest, paracetamol and fluids just like a normal flu-like illness. However, for those with significant other medical problems and for the elderly it can be more serious.

With this in mind we have postponed all face to face GP appointments and some routine nurse appointments. This is for both our patients' safety and the safety of our staff. Instead we are now offering an enhanced telephone service, 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. We are working hard to make sure that those who are housebound will continue to receive their medications.

Practical advice:

First and foremost is the need to wash your hands on a regular basis – warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

This alone will help slow down the spread of the virus and help protect you, your family and our community.

Dr James Morrow,
Managing Partner, 16th March 2020

Linton temporary food bank

IF you need help with food during the Covid -19 outbreak because you really cannot afford to buy food please contact the temporary food bank we have set up via:

lintoncommunityhelp@gmail.com,

If you have no email you can call 01223 901132

Can you donate?

Please bring donations of dry/longlife goods to:

St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Linton, CB21 4JX

9-11am Monday to Friday

Please note:

This service is designed to help those in our community who may struggle financially during this trying time and provide a helping hand to those who need it.

This service is **not** designed to assist with the existing supermarket supply issues – a number of other solutions to this have already been put into place within the village

The Parish Council

AS a precautionary measure, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, Linton Parish Council has closed the Parish Council office to all members of the public until further notice. The parish office staff will be working from home, and can be contacted on 891001 and there may be some delay in responding.

Thank you in advance for your understanding with the reasoning behind these temporary measures.

Working together and linking up with other agencies will ensure we get through this challenging time.

Kate Wiseman, Parish Clerk

And elsewhere.....

BARTLOW has a group (Bartlow Village Association) which is co-ordinating our community support.

We maintain a list of our residents and have noted those *at risk* as defined, those in isolation (with dates) and those who are offering help. We have allocated individual responsibility (a *buddy*) for the vulnerable residents who live alone or where a couple are both frail.

We have set up a WhatsApp group to match helpers with those needing help. Content consists of a complete range from vital requests to collect medicines or food to trivia. People are *meeting* each other and helping each other out.

The great thing about a virtual group is that it is dynamic. Someone who is offering help this week might need help next week. We need to remember that not everyone has access to social media but their *buddy* will have. Duncan Ogilvy, 893644

Hadstock

IF you want information on what Hadstock are doing go to their new website www.hadstock.org.uk

You can also see what the Church in Hadstock is doing on page 3 of this issue. You can contact the reverend Paula Griffiths, priest at St Botolphs on paula.greatford@btinternet.com

Editor

Please Note: There is a list of food and veg suppliers on the leaflet delivered by the volunteers

Covid-19 and schools

ON Monday 23rd March all schools, nurseries and colleges were closed to pupils. Then later in the month they were opened to pupils whose parents are key workers and to those pupils as assessed by the local authority.

A momentous event.

Editor

Summer at Linton Village College

New tutors needed

LINTON Village College Adult education department is looking for new tutors to join our team.

If you have a talent or skill you would like to share and teach to others, please get in touch via email at adult.education@lvc.org or telephone 891223 ext 303 or 317

Summer term

Why not come and try something new and make new friends? Our summer programme starts week commencing 27th April* – if we can open after the coronavirus closures.

We still have spaces on the following classes for the summer term:-

Watercolours, Applique quilts/wall hanging, Upholstery, Pen and ink drawing, Experimenting with mosaics, Singing for fun, Pottery, Beginners sketchbook, Art and drawing, Flower arranging, Aromatherapy

ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) and Woodwork or contact us by telephone ???

or email.

Margaret Kiddy,

Adult Education and Lettings Manager

**Editor's note – This is subject to being able to open after the coronavirus outbreak closures.*

Family Centre events

FOLLOWING the most recent Government announcements, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel all of our groups from centres and outreach venues.

We have taken this step to protect you and your families, our staff teams and to prevent the spread of infection. For now, our doors will remain open for pre-arranged appointments and individual callers.

We recognise how important it is that families and community members can continue to access information and vital social support during this time. Our teams are still available to support in a variety of ways; we will use social media to provide information updates and welcome you to contact us on: 01954 284672

For families receiving one-to-one support our staff will be in touch to discuss the help you may need.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need our support,
Sally Stephenson Child and Family Centre Manager

Sawston Village College Adult Learning

AT Sawston Adult Learning we are looking forward to the start of our summer programme.

The summer term begins week commencing 20th April* and we have some fabulous courses on offer.

For those wanting to improve their health and fitness and well-being we have Reiki Relaxation & Stress Management, Tai Chi, Pilates, Fitness Yoga and Bollywood & Classical Indian dance. For those tired of cooking the same old meals and wanting some inspiration, why not come along to our Creative Curry, Cooking with Unusual Cuts of Meat, or Tarts and Pies for Dessert courses. For those wanting to try arts and crafts we can offer Flowers for Fun, Exploring Drawing & Painting, Fused Glass Jewellery, Dressmaking and Creative Writing – Beginners. These and many more courses are all available to view and book on our website www.sawstonadulthood.org or if you prefer, please contact us on 712424, community@sawstonvc.org for more information.

Mrs Clare Walpole, Adult Learning Administrator

**Editor's note – subject to coronavirus restrictions.*

Sports Centre and Coronavirus



IT is with deep regret that we have taken the decision to close the Centre from 10pm on 18th March until further notice.

We have been in constant contact with our education trust and have made this decision in agreement with them and taking into account the Government's guidance on non-essential social contact and protecting at-risk groups.

We will arrange refunds or credit notes for bookings and memberships in due course. I will contact each booking and membership to discuss what will happen going forward.

Our number one priority is the health of our customers and whilst we are all disappointed that we have had to close we realise this is the best thing to do at this time.

Over the past four and a half months the new management team has been working tirelessly to improve the Sports Centre and the service we provide. We have seen a rise in usage and many of you have made glowing comments about the service and your satisfaction with our ever-improving facilities.

We will re-open however, as I'm sure you can appreciate, we cannot give you an exact date when this will happen. Please keep an eye on our Website www.lintonsc.schoolhire.co.uk and our Facebook and Instagram pages.

If you have any queries or questions please contact me by email see below.

Thank you for your amazing support and we will continue to update you as and when necessary.

Samuel Pollard, Manager, Samuel.Pollard@LVC.org

What's afoot at Granta Grapevine?



My what a big foot you've got Wendy

Picture supplied by Mike

GRANTA Grapevine, Linton's talking newspaper, was 30 years old last month.

No, we're not pulling your leg, it was started in March 1990, three years after the Linton News was first published. A special edition of the recording featuring part of the first edition was distributed to our listeners. Some of the group are pictured at a recent committee meeting where our secretary, Wendy Foster, was recovering after an operation on her foot.

The talking newspaper provides a spoken version of the Linton News and an audio magazine every month for those who are visually impaired or have difficulty reading the text for any reason.

Contact me if you know anyone who might like a copy of the recording on USB memory stick, for which players are available from us.

We are in need of more volunteers to keep us on our toes, so if you think you can help give me a call on 893619 for further information or see our website grantagrapevine.org.uk

Mike Crofts

THE LINTON NEWS Next Publication 4th May 2020
DEADLINES for ADVERTS Monday 13th April
NEWS ITEMS Wednesday 15th April

ITEMS FOR THE EDITOR

Can be put in the Linton News Box in the Post Office
 Editor: Fran Armes, 891517

Readers write...

Post and email addresses and deadline for letters are on this page. All letters for publication must have a full name, address or phone number to enable us to check authenticity. Letters may be edited. Opinions are not necessarily those of the Linton News.

Anonymous letters will NOT be published but names and addresses may be withheld if requested.

OUR THANKS

Guides' Jumble Sale

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped by volunteering, supplying or buying for the Guides' jumble sale on 7th March. It was our best sale ever and raised £650 clear profit, to be split between the two Linton Guide units.

We really do appreciate the wonderful support from Linton and local folk, both in turning out unwanted goods and attending the afternoon action.

Kate France, 891602

St Botolph's Church

LIKE all churches, we sadly have to keep our doors shut while the current COVID-19 restrictions are in place, but with modern technology St Botolph's, and the other churches in the Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry, are keeping worship alive.

Each week we are producing a short service sheet and a notice sheet with Bible readings. These are available by email on request and on the Church at Home page on the website of St Mary's Saffron Walden (www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org). This can be used:

to use privately at home, or with your family

to follow the 30-minute service recorded each week, accessible via the website above

as a framework for joining live in the Eucharist celebrated from my home at 9.30 am on Sunday mornings (the usual Hadstock service time), via the Zoom package which is easy to upload onto your computer or laptop.

Please let me know by email if you would like to be added to the list to receive these sheets and the Zoom link for the service.

With my prayers and best wishes to everyone in this difficult time

The Reverend Paula Griffiths Priest at St Botolph's
Hadstock Associate Priest in the Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry
paula.greatford@btinternet.com

Community Warden and ACE's

MELANIE Laing is the Community Warden, who looks after around 25 households in Linton

The ACEs are organising an informal group with the older people who come to their meetings, for contact and support. We will be in contact with them shortly.

Note the ACE coach trip due to take place on 23rd April is postponed. It will be re-scheduled after the Covid-19 epidemic.

Enid Smith, 891069

LINTON DIARY

All events cancelled except Farmers' Market and Bin Collection Farmer's Market

This takes place on the first Saturday every month, 9am to 12 noon in the Village Hall. Yes it is still going ahead with strict Social Distancing and only food stalls.

Bin Collection Dates

Linton refuse collection:

Wednesday 15th April and Monday 27th April

Linton blue bin collections:

Mondays 6th and 21st April

Green bin collections

These were suspended temporarily from Monday 23rd March due to the Coronavirus. South Cambs District Council hopes to continue them from May but will keep us updated.

The service to deliver replacement or additional green bins is also suspended.

The bulky waste collection service and green bin collections have been suspended until further notice. All Household Recycling Centres and recycling points are also closed until further notice. For more information please The bulky waste collection service and green bin collections have been suspended until further notice. All Household Recycling Centres and recycling points are also closed until further notice. For more information please go to South Cambridgeshire District website.

Black bin waste handling if you are suffering from Covid-19

The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service has published advice on handling waste if your household is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus.

If you're experiencing the main symptoms - a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature - please be very careful when disposing of your personal waste (including used tissues and disposable cleaning cloths/wipes) at home. The advice for disposal of this waste is as follows:

It should be put in a plastic rubbish bag and tied when full

The plastic bag should then be placed in a second bin bag and tied

It should be kept separate from other waste in suitable secure place on your property for 72 hours before being placed in the black bin as normal

The principle behind this method is that after 72 hours outside the body, the virus is no longer viable. This approach will help keep bin collection crews as safe as possible.

Linton Library

ALL Cambridgeshire Libraries are closed to the public until further notice.

Please don't worry about accumulating fines on books you took out before the closure. Books currently out on loan are being renewed automatically, and charges have been suspended since mid-March.

Unfortunately it is not possible at the moment to borrow physical books from the library. However, if you are online you can download free electronic books, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers onto your computer, tablet or smartphone through the library service. Please visit <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/library-online> to find out more.

If you are not already a library member, you can join online (please use the link above). A membership number will be emailed to you.

Cambridgeshire Libraries are also working hard to provide other online activities to keep people informed, engaged and entertained at this difficult time.

Best wishes to you all. We hope to see you again in the library before too long. Please take care and stay well.

Anna McMahon and Lindsay Healy
 Linton Community Library Assistants



Women's Institute and Coronavirus

Cambridge WI Federation Office

WE have been advised by the National Federation of Women's Institutes not to hold meetings at the moment and the office of the Cambridge Federation (CFWI) will close for the foreseeable future. The secretaries will work from home and can be e-mailed on office@cfwi.co.uk as usual.

All forthcoming events have been postponed and refunds will be given. The magazine Cambridge News will continue to be printed at the moment and we will deliver it to members. It is also available on My WI and we will send out a link.

There will be shortage of content for the News— so if you have anything to share please send to Helen at cfwi.co.uk

All the best to everyone. Keep safe and well.

Sue Smales sues.smales@gmail.com

Linton Women's Institute

UNTIL further notice there will be no meetings of Linton WI due to the Coronavirus.

At our March meeting, Dr Bill Block gave an excellent talk, drawing on his 18 years of experience as a beekeeper. We shall report on this in next month's issue.

Sally Probets 891021

News from St Mary's, Linton and St Mary's, Bartlow

CURRENTLY, the whole Church of England is suspending public worship and has to close buildings for every other purpose. We sincerely regret this, since so many people find it helpful to visit a church at times of stress and grief. We are particularly sorry that you cannot light a candle at St Mary's Linton at the time of bereavement. Although it may seem a poor alternative, we do invite you, if you are in this distressing situation, to *Show you care when you can't be there* by lighting a virtual candle at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/light-candle> We hope to offer several occasions after the crisis is over for the bereaved to join in bringing their memories and prayers together in church.

We are sorry you were not able to pick up a Palm Cross from the church. After we advertised this possibility, official advice said that we should not distribute them during the emergency. However, we have the crosses in stock, and hope to be able to offer them as a sign of God's love when the lockdown is over.

Meanwhile, we remain active in these ways, and we invite you to join us:

Virtual worship: a service posted on our website and in paper copies which can be delivered to your home. It will be refreshed weekly and there will also be special services posted for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Audio-visual media may shortly be used to share in these services online. To request a regular paper copy, please contact the church administrator or the rector.

Church members are joining the coordinated efforts in the villages to support those isolated at home.

Especially, we offer anyone who might be lonely and anxious the chance of a **regular friendly phone call**. Please contact the rector or church administrator with details of the person concerned (with their permission).

Food for the emergency village food bank can be brought to the church porch from Monday to Friday between 9 am and 11am.

www.stmaryslinton.org.uk

Rector: Maggie Guite, 890273

Church Administrator: admin@stmaryslinton.org.uk

The garden club

DEAR ALL I hope you are all keeping well.

Based on the latest guidance issued nationally to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the committee has made the following decisions.

We have sadly decided to cancel the 14th April and 12th May club meetings. All being well, we hope to reschedule them in the 2020 - 2021 season.

The Plant Sale scheduled for 16th of May is also cancelled. The committee is considering other ways of selling and distributing plants already in the pipeline.

No plans have been finalised for the June evening trip, so as things stand it is also unlikely to take place at that time.

With regards to the Annual Show, we are monitoring the situation and will decide at a later date if and how it could be held.

We find ourselves in unprecedented and troubling times so look after yourselves and have a care for those who may need assistance.

Best wishes and keep gardening.
Jim Forrest, Secretary,
Linton Gardening Club

The answer lies in the soil

OUR speaker for the Garden Club's March meeting was Karen Kenny, talking about the importance of the soil and how to care for it. Karen gave a very informative and amusing talk with questions to members for which the answer was the soil each time.

More on that next time

Anita Daws, 892113
lgcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk

Girlguiding Linton District

UNTIL a short while ago it was a fabulous start to the New Year. We had two new leaders come forward to join us who will help at Linton Brownies. One of our young leaders has created Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages for us. You can see what we have been up to by looking at Linton District@. The Guides had an amazing end to the year and went on an Anglia Region camp Supanova, with 600 other Guides from Anglia Region and also a trip to the panto. They also ran their annual jumble sale in March enabling people to hunt for a bargain or two and enjoy a cake and a cup of tea.

Our Brownies had Christmas parties and Christmas fayres running stalls and handling the money as well as eating cake. Our Guides ran their annual jumble sale. They have also travelled the globe in one evening visiting Japan, America, Russia and Ireland and made penguins out of icing and decorated beautiful stones.

Our Rainbows made bee houses and bird boxes to give to the station adopter at Dullingham Station who is going to put them up there and other stations in the area.

All our girls from Rainbows to Rangers attended a county STEM* day in February as our district thinking day activity and learnt much so our county is going to do the same again next year.

Now the coronavirus has postponed arrangements including sleeping under the planes at Duxford for a night but one of our leaders is posting activities online for all our girls to entertain them and give them Guiding without meeting. We have also had our annual awards to celebrate everyone's achievements in Guiding. If you would like to find out more or get involved in any way contact Louisa at lintondistrict@gmail.com

*STEM science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Louisa Powell,
District Commissioner for Linton District

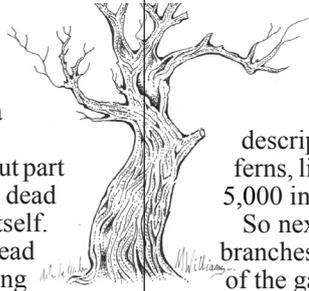
Trees for life

THE Victorians are praised and pilloried in equal measure but we can apparently blame them for our incessant need to tidy up our countryside and gardens. The book *Wilding*, by Isabella Tree, from the Knepp estate in Sussex is being passed round to anyone remotely interested in nature and, together with what to do with an old favourite but dead Bramley in our garden, it seemed time to rethink the word "dead".

When you think how long our fantastic oak trees take to grow, they shouldn't just be the victim of a chainsaw at the first sign of trouble. They are beautiful shapes – next time you drive along you might take a closer look at the sculptured figures of oaks and others. In parklands they stand proud, ideally surrounded by fallen branches like a matriarch and her grandchildren.

A dying tree is not a beacon of uselessness and neglect but part of nature's recycling process, stimulating biodiversity. A dead branch on the ground is also a natural fertiliser for the tree itself.

I have learned a new word – a snag. A log is a dead tree or branch on the ground, whereas a snag is standing dead tree. A hard snag has sound sapwood and decayed heartwood, and a soft snag is a tree in an advanced state of decay with the bark falling away. In forests, snags make up approximately 10% of all trees and the largest tree can take several



decades to decompose completely. Until then, it is a time-release compost stick.

A snag undergoes a series of changes from the time it dies until its final collapse. Each new stage in the decaying process has particular value to wildlife species. It provides a place to nest, rest, eat and grow. Birds use snags to view the area and watch for predators, prey, rivals and potential mates. Branches make excellent song and display perches. 40% of all woodland wildlife depends on dead trees and one third of woodland birds nest in them. Woodpeckers drum on them to mark their territory. Pollinators lay eggs in them, and they harbour insects, larvae, and spiders of all descriptions. They are a welcome environment for moss, ferns, lichens and even tree seedlings. In this country around 5,000 invertebrate and fungal species rely on dead wood.

So next time you're tempted to clear away and burn dead branches, just pause. You might make a log pile in the corner of the garden, in direct contact with the ground, a sort of informal bug hotel. You can add to it as logs decay and spread leaf litter to encourage toads and hedgehogs. If you have a dying tree, just leave it standing, as long as it is safe, a monument not just to its past, but to its future.

Camsight VIPs

(Visually Impaired People)

The Cambridgeshire charity for local people with low vision and blindness

OUR monthly meetings at Chalklands have been cancelled until further notice, owing to the risk of the coronavirus. We shall inform readers when our meetings will be resumed.

Our cancelled March meeting was to have included a talk by a representative from Cambridge Water.

We are contacting our members on a regular basis, especially the elderly who live alone without families or other support nearby, to try to ensure that their day to day needs are being met.

If you, or anyone you know would like any further help or information, please contact us on the number below.

Jean Mannion, 893595

Councillors' report

WE hope that you and your families are all keeping safe at this difficult time.

There is only one subject and that is how we are all working to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We know about all the good work going on in the villages to support the vulnerable and elderly. Well done everyone, keep up the good work.

A few practical points about carrying on the work of your parish councils:

Cambridgeshire County Council

The County Council has a hub online where information regarding volunteers can be accessed – hwww.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you – also a simple online search should find you the correct webpage. This is a hub for links to volunteer support as well as help/advice for businesses.

Planning

As of now the District Council cannot hold Planning Committee meetings or process requests from Parishes or Members asking for applications to go to committee. There is a growing backlog of applications that will have to wait until we have the legal framework in place to deal with them.

However, the planning process is still working, Planning Officers are taking decisions where the delegation rules allow. Which are most applications.

Parish Councils should continue to process planning applications that come to them. This can be done remotely, as you are being consulted and asked for your recommendation. The decisionmaker is the District Council so the issue over the voting rules, in this case, do not apply to the Parish Council. However, there may be variations on this depending on your own Standing Orders.

Henry and John Batchelor



2523 (LINTON) SQN

AIR TRAINING CORPS



WE are now closed due to Covid-19.

We continued our strong start to the year by getting three of our newly qualified cadets airborne within the first few days of achieving their first class cadet classification. A few comments from our first time flyer cadets:

Cadet Vellacott; "Flying was the most exhilarating experience I have ever had. Only when you have completed a flight for yourself can you truly appreciate the wonder of aviation."

Cadet Spall; "I was able to go flying in a Grob Tutor two-seater aircraft. I went to RAF Cranwell and actually FLEW the plane! At first I was nervous but after doing it I am eager to go again."

Cadet Sainsbury; "It was amazing! The weather was fantastic and I got a chance to fly the plane. The instructor did some aerobatics with me – loop the loop, barrel rolls and more.

Continuing with the aviation theme, Linton fulfilled six part task trainer allocations, where ground school, including principles of flight training, along with practical glider simulations, resulted in various blue and bronze wings awards.

Presentation evening was a success and it always amazes me to see how much the squadron achieves in 12 months. As Training Officer it is my favourite event of the year. Every cadet on squadron was awarded a new badge, qualification, promotion or award.

The squadron moves from strength to strength with the appointment of two new Cadet Forces Commissions. Debbie Keenan and myself successfully completed uniformed staff training and assessments, resulting in being appointed as Acting Pilot Officer (RAFAC).

We are always welcoming new cadets to the squadron, so if you are aged 12 and in year 8, or older, please get in touch about joining with the details below.

Bradley Wright, Acting Pilot Officer (RAFAC)
Training Officer training.2523@aircadets.org
07943 873272

Balsham Singers May concert cancelled

SADLY we have had to cancel the Balsham Singers concert that was due to be take place on Saturday 16th May. This is of course, due to the Coronavirus outbreak and concerns of infection.

We plan to resume in the autumn with the 25th anniversary concert in December. Thank you for all the support from the community.

Sue Foxall, Balsham Singers committee member,
balsham_singers@hotmail.co.uk

Bigamy in Bartlow

A CAUSE célèbre reported in practically every newspaper in England and Ireland, this story begins far away but reaches its scandalous climax in Bartlow.

Henry Bickerstaffe, a vicar's son, was studying at St Bees Theological College in Cumbria in 1850 when he met Miss Elizabeth Drew, a vicar's daughter. A respectable twelve-month courtship preceded their wedding at the Drew family home in Ireland.

Over the next seven years they produced four children and moved several times before Henry obtained a Living at Morecombe Bay. But he had become unsettled and was frequenting public houses.

His behaviour became so outrageous that he got the sack, losing both the family home and their income. They moved to Leeds relying on remittances from their respective parents.

There were many quarrels as Henry's habits became increasingly irregular. By 1859 Elizabeth concluded that her husband was a violent drunkard. She sought police protection but before the police arrived Henry abandoned the family.

Later that year he reappeared in Surrey as curate to the Reverend Blancker. Henry lived with the family and had the use of their horses and carriages. When a friend of the family, Miss Anna Campbell,



St Mary's Church Bartlow

Photo supplied by Gilly

came to stay Henry paid her so much attention that Blancker felt he had to have words with him about it. Even so Henry and Anna became engaged.

There was further consternation when Henry got so drunk that he fell off the couch and was banished from the Rectory. Blancker warned Anna about Henry and advised her to finish with him. She was not persuaded.

Anna's father had died leaving her "£5,000 in her own right absolutely" (currently £600,000) and Anna was in delicate health. This may have been her attraction for Henry but what did she see in him? At the age of 38 was she becoming

desperate?

Plans for the wedding proceeded swiftly. A date was fixed for 15th October, 1859 with a wedding ceremony in Brighton followed by a *déjeuner* for 60 guests.

When announcements were placed in the press Henry got the collywobblers. Bigamy was still a capital offence at this time. The announcement in *The Times* came to the attention of Mrs Elizabeth Bickerstaffe back in Leeds, who reported it to the police.

On 15th October, the wedding guests arrived at the Church as did the bride. Henry did not. Anna's brother tracked him down and was told that Henry

felt a discreet marriage would be "more consistent with the feelings of a Christian Minister". Anna, determined to have her wedding, agreed.

A more discreet wedding was quickly arranged for 8th November 1859 at St Mary's Church, Bartlow. Anna's brother was a witness and probably brought Henry to Bartlow himself, to make sure he arrived this time. Presumably Bartlow was chosen for its obscurity and its distance from both Brighton and Leeds.

The happy couple left Bartlow for a brief honeymoon in Cambridge but Anna's brother came galloping up to Cambridgeshire again. He had discovered that Henry was already married. Henry alleged that his first wife was dead and buried in Yorkshire before eventually admitting the truth and fleeing.

A warrant for his arrest and his picture in the *Hue and Cry* meant Henry could avoid the inevitable for only a few weeks. He was arrested in Ryl and taken to Leeds Assizes for trial. He offered no defence and in early 1890 Henry was sentenced to three years penal servitude.

The first Mrs Bickerstaffe divorced him. The second one didn't need to, as her marriage was never valid. Anna was saved the trouble and retained her "£5,000 absolutely in her own right."

Gilly Cunningham

BARTLOW
counties 3
CHARITY WALK

Bartlow walk cancellation

AFTER listening to the government advice in recent days, the Bartlow Walk Committee has made the decision to postpone this year's walk until 2nd May 2021.

It will be very sad not to hold the walk in its 17th year but we have to follow the advice for limiting large gatherings and keeping both the public and the organisers safe.

Please put the date in your calendars for next year. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Duncan Ogilvy Walk Co-ordinator 893644
Written by Hetty Findlay 890353

Save the date

WE are not planning to hold a Scarecrow Festival in Linton this summer – instead we hope to turn your creative energy to thinking about trees instead.

It may seem too early to be thinking about Christmas but we want to let you know that a Christmas Tree Festival is planned for 5th–6th December in St Mary's Church. The event will be open to any groups, schools, individuals or businesses who would like to bring a tree to display. Trees can be real, artificial or made in an alternative way eg junk modelling.

We ask that lights are battery operated only. Other decorations may promote a group or business or follow a theme of your choice. Various events and entertainment will be planned for the weekend. Look out for more information over the coming months.

Pam Richardson, St Mary's Events Committee
events@stmaryslinton.org.uk

Historical Society

WEST Wickham 100 years ago was the topic of an excellent presentation given by local historian Janet Morris at our February Meeting.

At the turn of the century there were few family photographs available, however postcards were produced on a variety of subjects covering rural areas, as well as better known events taking place in our towns and cities.

The communities of West Wickham, Burton End and Streetly End were all built along a ridge, with the church approximately at the centre and this is where we began, with a very early photograph showing the box pews inside the church, before they were removed in 1900 as urgent work was required in the chancel. Outside the church stood the brick-built Village Pound.

Along with a vast array of postcards, Janet also gave us an insight into the lives of the families who lived there at the time, albeit Big houses, or cottages, each had a tale to tell. Obviously, some properties are long gone, along with the numerous trees along the highways and byways shown at the time. But many homes remain, which have been up-dated for modern day use.

A large thatched barn was the original Hall at Streetly Hall Farm, which, like many buildings, was destroyed by fire as, in more recent times, was The Chequers Public House.

Burton End has become almost part of West Wickham since tarmac was laid down and the in-building of houses following WW2. History on your Doorstep once again proved very popular.

All meetings of the Linton and District Historical Society

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