

## LINTON CATHODEON COMMUNITY TRUST

### Report of the Chairman of the Trustees to Linton Annual Parish Meeting 23 April 2013

The last twelve months has not been quite as busy as last year, which had been the busiest year for the Trust and the trustees since the Cathodeon Centre first opened, but a lot has still happened.

In last year's report, I mentioned, in connection with the building of the Children's Centre, that problems had emerged over the new front access to the building and aspects of the car park and pedestrian access to the site. Although remedial works were eventually agreed and carried out, some matters remained unresolved, some of the remedial works exposed the presence of wider problems and some other aspects of the works have proved defective. We have had many months of hard negotiations, mainly with Mouchel the contract administrators. I am pleased that the remaining issues were eventually resolved just last week and the works should be completed in readiness for the official opening of the Children's Centre in July. Quite rightly, the trustees have not contributed to the cost of the remedial works. Completion of the remedial works should allow us to resume extended weekend opening of the play area for the general public. It is good, incidentally, to see how much activity the Children's Centre is generating.

I mentioned last year that following completion of the main building works, the Trustees had carried out an internal refurbishment programme. This year we have funded three significant works. The street light outside the library entrance, which was superfluous following the installation of more wall lights around the building, was removed and replaced with a new light alongside the new pedestrian route to the premises. We replaced the boiler in the original building, taking the opportunity to introduce zoned heating to reduce fuel consumption. We also arranged for a retaining wall to be built alongside the top part of the new car park, which as designed was edged with an earth bank, so as to match the other sections of the new works and improve the appearance of the area. New signs have been erected on the building, and subject to planning permission and the agreement of the Parish and County Councils we hope to erect a notice adjacent to the entrance from Horseheath Road. Wherever possible we employ local contractors.

The vegetation at the back of the building has been cut back significantly, partly in response to neighbouring residents' requests and partly as an element in our plan to upgrade the access to the community rooms. We have just upgraded the lighting along the rear entrance path and are hoping to cosmetically resurface the path and install a canopy over the rear entrance, which will be beneficial for users, especially the Chestnuts Playgroup.

The works we have carried out and are intending to carry out in the coming year cost significant sums of money. As anticipated in last year's report, the trustees agreed not to increase hire charges for the year from September 2012. Our reserves, which we built up to meet long term maintenance and repair costs, have fallen over the last year and I anticipate there may be a further reduction over the coming year with further works to be carried out. However, they will remain at a reasonable level, and we have secured a couple of new hirers over the past year. Once the remedial works are completed, we will be able to market the Centre more strongly, to fill the gaps in the booking diary and maximize income.

Compared with some other libraries in the area, Linton has largely sustained usage levels, although the number of fixed computers has been reduced, reflecting the growing number of homes with computers and mobile devices. However, with continuing stringency in local government funding, the community must do all it can to sustain the facility. The Friends of Linton Library enjoyed a quiet year and the trustees hope that FOLL will develop a wider role in the coming year. We have made a grant of £100 towards their work.

I reported last year that the Centre had been designated the County Council's community hub for the Linton area. This has proved to be of less relevance so far than had been hoped, partly because of pressures on the County Council's budget. We hope that it will assume greater practical significance in the coming year. The Trustees have proposed to the County Council that the village link community minibus service should be routed between Linton and Balsham to run via the Centre and Wheatsheaf Way. We are also aware that there is a proposal to create a modest interchange between the nos. 19 and 13 services, and have suggested that a bus layby could be created near the High St/Bartlow Rd/Horseheath Rd junction to facilitate interchange. These changes would make the Centre more accessible for people travelling by public transport from surrounding villages.

The Trustees would like to thank their Honorary Secretary Sue Mudge for the great deal of work she has carried out over the year and Lucy Arnold, our efficient caretaker.

Andrew Gore  
Chairman of the Trustees

Linton Cathodeon Community Trust,  
The Cathodeon Centre, High Street, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4JT  
Hon Secretary: Sue Mudge, 07765 369266  
Trustees: T Bateman; D Champion; A R Gore; L Martin; V E Urwin; J A Wilson.  
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