

LINTON CATHODEON COMMUNITY TRUST

Report of the Trustees to Linton Annual Parish Meeting 28 April 2015

Last year, we reported the official opening of the Childrens Centre by the Chairman of the County Council. Although there is nothing of equal significance to report this year, the last 12 months has witnessed steady progress

Improvements to the layout at the back of the Centre were delayed partly because of the difficulty in obtaining quotations at a time when businesses have busy order books. However, the main works have now been completed. As well making the community entrance to the building far more attractive, we have taken the opportunity to ease the gradient of the ramp leading to the main doors so that, although there is no legal obligation to do so, it complies with the current access requirements for new buildings. Some landscaping details await completion, and the new canopy and railings should be installed by the beginning of June. We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for its contribution towards the cost of these works. The balance has been met by the Trust.

The use of the library has been sustained over the last year. We are very pleased to report a distinct increase in borrowing from the Childrens Library. The Friends of Linton Library continue to support the Library, and the Trust has raised funds for the Friends through the donation of the proceeds of sale of redundant items of equipment.

Although some activities at the Conker's Children's Centre have been reduced and its management reorganised, because of the financial position of the County Council, the Centre is still providing a range of services for the parents of young children in need of support and assistance, and it remains an important base for groups such as the midwifery service.

Hirings of the Centre by community groups and others have remained similar to 2014 and the financial position of the Trust remains stable, so we expect to be in a position to meet long term maintenance and repair costs.

Residents may be aware that change in the provision of library services is under consideration. One possibility is that most County libraries would become community-led organisations. The Trustees welcome steps to strengthen community involvement, though it would be important that services currently available at County Council libraries, but not at existing community libraries, are extended to all libraries. Whilst some public libraries which ceased to be County Council libraries in the 2004 rationalisation programme have become successful community libraries, there are other communities where the library no longer exists or is much reduced in scope. If these possible changes do take place, it will require a great deal of co-ordination and commitment by all groups concerned with the Linton library if it is to enjoy a secure future. The County Council has already embarked on an initial on-line consultation, now extended to 10 May, and we understand detailed proposals will then be developed with a view to arranging a series of public meetings during the summer. The Trustees will aim to play a constructive role during the consultation, but we hope as part of wider local engagement in the process.

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 was nominated by the Parish Council to serve for a further term as trustee and was subsequently appointed. Theresa Bateman stood down as the Trustee appointed by the County Council Childrens Services following changes in the management of the Childrens Centre mentioned above. Her replacement awaits the result of internal changes in the County Council.

Andrew Gore
Chairman, on behalf of the Trustees

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