

Great Linford Parish Council News & Views

Issue Eleven

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GRAFFITI IS NOT ART: IT'S A CRIMINAL ACT!

Remove all graffiti within parish boundaries and keep it that way. That is one of the major aims of Great Linford Parish Council.

A survey of graffiti has been carried out by Councillors to find out just how much of a problem graffiti is within the Parish. The results of the survey were passed to MK Council who, with persuasion from Parish Manager Jenny Sharp, made a determined effort to clean up most of the areas outlined. These include telephone boxes, road signs, and the road abutments over canal bridges, and so on.

The challenge, however, is to keep it that way. As one observer noted: 'There is a fashionable idea that painting on walls and public areas is a form of self-expression'. That view is not shared by the Parish Council. "Graffiti is not art – it is criminal damage," said Councillor David Stabler.

The Parish Council, and many residents, feel that an area defaced with slogans, and offensive ones at that, looks as if the people who live there do not care.

Graffiti is an ongoing challenge for the Parish but one that residents can help to combat, by reporting graffiti when they see it so that others are not encouraged to do the



same. To some people, a wall with a slogan is an invitation to add some more.

Yet, it is not just the unsightliness of graffiti that is offensive; there is also a price to pay in removing it. Great Linford Parish Council has one of the lowest rate charges of all

parish councils in the city area, and one way of keeping that rate down is by being vigilant about graffiti.

Residents can report incidents to the special Graffiti hotline set up by MK Council, on (01908) 252570, or via their

website on www.mkweb.co.uk. Better still, if you know who the culprits are, ring Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or via their website www.crimestoppers.co.uk.

Remember, graffiti is a criminal offence, punishable in law!

ML

"one way to keep costs down is to keep graffiti down"

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Fossils unearthed from the time when Linford was beneath the sea

Discovered by Parks Trust volunteers clearing quarry

Fossils that date from the time when the area was submerged under a shallow tropical sea have been found in the limestone quarry in Linford Manor Park.

It seems that the quarry is so rich in fossils that it has been designated an RIGS, or regionally important geological site.

The finds were made by Parks Trust volunteers while clearing some of the undergrowth to help expose the limestone beneath the soil in the quarry. Work is continuing but you can see how far the volunteers have got by visiting the spot, which is next to the standing stones in the

Manor Park. This sort of work is just one of the tasks volunteers have carried out within our parish this year. You may also have noticed Parks Trust teams coppicing the 'wilderness' area between the railway walk and canal, to encourage ground flora such as primroses to bring colour and richness to this peaceful site. The Trust has also been rehabilitating a number of ponds, including those at the brick kilns and at the end of Parklands, Great Linford.

If you would like to know more, or you would like to help out, there is a working party planned for November 30, for which Volunteers' Coordinator Pete Blyth can give you more details, on 01908 233600, or visit the Parks Trust's website at: www.theparkstrust.com. ML

CHARITABLE TRUSTS TO HELP YOU...

Charitable trusts are available to help individuals residing within the Parish area. The charities were set up many years ago and although they have limited funds they are still active and can provide some assistance to those in need.

The parish area includes the following grid squares: Great Linford, Giffard Park, Blakelands, Neath Hill, Pennylands, Bolbeck Park, Tongwell, Conniburrow, Downs Barn, Downhead Park and Willen Park.

As funds are restricted, the maximum amount that can be provided will not normally exceed £200. All applications received will be dealt with in strict confidence.

Great Linford Advancement In Life Charity

This Charity exists to give financial help to persons under the age of 25 years.

Grants are considered for educational purposes, to include social and physical training, scholarships or bursaries for entry to university or other educational establishments. This could include clothing, tools, musical instruments or books to help with the applicant's education, as well as assistance with travel in the furtherance of studies within an educational establishment.

Great Linford Relief In Need Charity

This Charity can provide some help to those within the Parish area, who are in severe financial difficulties and each case is taken on its merit. JS

For further details on the above please, contact the Charities Secretary, Mr Ted Pawley, on Milton Keynes 661049, who will be pleased to advise you further.

Demand for facilities far outstrips availability

The Cricket Season is now over and again our pitches at Marsh Drive and the High Street, Great Linford have seen continuous use with five teams playing on a regular basis. The facilities at Marsh Drive now revert to football facilities, together with those at Pannier Place, Downs Barn. Unfortunately once again, the demand for football pitches exceeds the number of teams we can accommodate. We also have a problem with a shortage of facilities at Marsh Drive (three pitches and only three changing rooms).

The Parish Council would like to see this facility extended, but as always the funding needs to be obtained first.

The pavilions at the High Street, Great Linford and Downs Barn are available for hire. The High Street venue is suitable for meetings, and small children's parties. Downs Barn is on the first floor with an open staircase and is, therefore, unsuitable for the infirm or small children.

If you are interested in either of these facilities, then please contact the Parish Office on 606613.

JS

Ripples over Peartree Pond

During the last few summers the Parish Council has experienced problems with the Peartree pond at Great Linford Centre.

This is due to the inability of the pump to keep sufficient oxygen in the water (the pump was installed when the pond was built many years ago and was at the end of its life).

The Parish Council decided to replace the pump, but then the problems began. Despite many attempts, the electricity to the pond



New life for Peartree Pond

could not be located (presumably again this was installed before the pond was built over it). In desperation, we have now had a new electricity supply installed and hopefully the past problems will not occur again.

JS



...and yet another Ducky escape?

Many of the things Parish Manager Jenny Sharp has to deal with **entail** - complaints from Parishioners about graffiti,

litter, dog poop and overgrown hedges.

So it was heart-tugging when Jenny was asked if she could get drivers to **beakareful** and prevent **ducklings** being run over near the Broadway Avenue pond.

Milton Keynes Council wanted £70 to replace the road signs which Jenny thought

were **quackers!** How could the cars be made to **drake** and slow down? I know **waddle** I'll do thought Jenny, not wanting to **duck** the issue, I can get signs made by the Giffard Park Combined school children.

The kids **dived** in and 22 individual colourful signs were quickly made and were pegged out by the road side. After that things went **swimmingly**, drivers responded and no more ducklings were killed. Another **feather** in the cap for Jenny Sharp, Parish Manager.

DS

It's now official - there are some youngsters who love to clean up!

When it comes to the problem of fly-tipping, a group of youngsters from Downs Barn certainly know how to clean up. According to the *MK Citizen*, the children, all under the age 10, did a follow up after Council staff cleared the bulk of the bits of wood and pallets discarded on the streets.

Parents were concerned that some of the materials could be harmful to their children, so 15 or so children got together during the summer break to stack it where it was less likely to be dangerous. One parent was quoted: "They took it upon

themselves to clean it up, they were all out there gathering up this rubbish over two days. It was fantastic to see, they worked very hard, bless them."

A Council spokesperson was reported as saying: "It's great to know there are children who have been brought up to take a pride in their communities through such exemplary acts.

"They are leading by example and we encourage others to emulate them to continue to make the city a pleasant place to live."
ML



SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS!

The National Childbirth Trust

Rachel Clark, Secretary NCT MK

The long summer holidays have drawn to a close and I can look back on seven weeks with two children and say that I have survived. One of them is returning to preschool so I will have some time for myself again. We have been lucky to have some good weather to play out in the garden and go out for walks down the canal.

We are also very lucky in Milton Keynes as we can wander round the shopping centre when it is raining. My son loves Lego so we often spend time building in the Lego shop and then we walk over to the Library. Many of the libraries in Milton Keynes do storytimes for preschool children - a chance for

them to hear stories, sing nursery rhymes and watch puppets. It is great free entertainment and often includes a craft activity afterwards.

If you want to meet some local friends why not contact your National Childbirth Trust coffee group. You do not have to be an NCT member to go along and you are sure of a warm welcome. Some are in people's homes and some are in a local hall. There will be different toys to play with and a cup of tea and a biscuit. It is a great way to see children older than yours and chat about the common problems our little darlings create for us. If you would like more information simply call 0709 203 1752. **RC**

Advertisement removed
because of legal
restrictions on advertising
on the internet

Allotment Show Success

The third Great Linford Allotment Show was held at the Cricket Pavilion in Great Linford on Sunday August 28. The Show was open to all plot holders on the Parish Council allotments sites, although funds to stage the show were raised by the Allotment Association. There were a large numbers of entries, of a very high standard. Winners were:

Best Kept Allotments:

Neath Hill Site: Richard Potton
Hills Close Site: Mr Melton
Gifford Gate Site: Peter Carr
Bells Meadow Site: Elise Thomas

RJS Award for the Best Kept Allotment:

Peter Carr Gifford Gate Site

Best New Allotment:

1st Sally Ellis Hills Close site
2nd Mr & Mrs Carey Gifford Gate site

Section A - Vegetables

Winner: Richard Sharp

Section B - Salad

Winner: John Green

Section C - Fruit

Winner: John Green

Section D - Preserves

Winners: Richard Sharp
and John Green

Section E - Home Baking

Winner: Jenny Sharp

Section F - Flowers

Winner: Mrs Matthews and Mrs Eccles



John Green - winner of the Shield for highest number of points in show.

Section G - Home Made Wine

Winner: Richard Sharp

Section H - Childrens Section

1) Animal made from vegetables

Winner: Amber Corby

2) Decoration of any size cake

Winner: Amber Corby

Great Linford Parish Council Shield for Highest Number of Points in Show:

Winner: John Green

Show Judges were:

Mrs G Nicol and

Mrs P Cussell.

JS

THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE...

Councillor David Stabler has unearthed some history relating to the refurbished barn, renamed “**Downs Barn Pavilion**” at Pannier Place.

This former barn was converted in the 1980's by the Development Corporation to provide changing rooms and meeting facilities for the adjoining sports grounds. Presently the building and pitches are owned by Milton Keynes Council and are managed by Great Linford Parish Council.

Before development in Milton Keynes and subsequent civil boundary changes, the barn was in Willen Parish. In 1671 Dr Richard Busby, famous headmaster of Westminster School, classical scholar and grammarian but more notorious for beating his students, bought the Manor of Willen. Christopher Wren & Robert Hooke were his pupils. In 1695, on Dr Busby's death, the Manor of Willen was bequeathed to

trustees who managed the estate for almost 300 years with little or no development, apart the necessary re-building of farms and cottages and the erection of a new school in 1847.

Of the outlying farm buildings on this site in Willen Parish, the barn is only survivor - it was re-built in 1829. A survey of the Willen estate in 1822 shows the western most fields of the Parish as “Upper and Lower Downs”, with the farm buildings located in the next field to the east called Upper Sampsons. The earliest reference to the name seems to be “The Downs” on a map of 1690. The 1950-54 Ordnance Survey marked and named the site as “Down's Barn”.

Source Alan Howkins [MKC] & MKDC archive.

THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE - QUIZ results

Here are the answers to the Quiz set in the last edition of News & Views.

There were 10 questions with a maximum of 20 points for an all-correct score!

Great Linford is 234.95 feet above the OS datum.	1 point
The Contractor for the Neath Hill Clock Tower was R Marriott, it was constructed in 1980.	2 points
The schools named on the plaques at the millennium wood; are Great Linford, Giffard Park and St Andrews.	3 points
The date on canal bridge 77 at Marsh Drive is 1913	1 point
Braunston is 33 miles from canal bridge 79a Bolbeck Park	1 point
The National Cycleway sign on the railway walk near canal bridge 76a was designed by D Andrew Rowe in 1998	2 points
The clock stands above numbers 48 & 49 Kirklington.	1 point
The pubs are Giffard Park, Blacksmiths Arms Downs Barn, Eager Poet Neath Hill, Nags Head, Pilgrims Bottle & Proud Perch Great Linford	6 points
The first recorded brick maker was Richard Sheppard in 1842	2 points
George Osborne Price built the brick kilns we see today	1 point

There were no all-correct entries, so points were deducted for mis-spelling of names. The winner, with 18 points, is **Helen Richardson of Great Linford**, who receives a £15 voucher. Congratulations Helen, and well done to everyone who participated. Hopefully you are all more knowledgeable about our Parish, and maybe a little fitter after searching for the answers!

Who's Who of Parish Councillors

Charles Allum (Downs Barn)

668115

George Byfield (Conniburrow)

604063

John Figg (Great Linford)

666916

Gill Hobson

(Giffard Park/Blakelands)

670609

Brian Morsley - Chair

(Downhead Park/Willen Pk)

666054

Allan Pugh

(Downhead Park/Willen Park)

662441

John Perrott (Great Linford)

393770

Rod Markley (Great Linford)

605820

David Stabler (Neath Hill)

232025

Colin Tripp

(Giffard Park/Blakelands)

618304

Alan Williams (Neath Hill)

677402

Sue Williams (Conniburrow)

690337

Mike Williamson (Great Linford)

605664

Allan Wright (Downs Barn)

666926

Vacant

(Pennyland/Bolbeck Park)

Parish Manager is Jenny Sharp.

Email her at:

manager@greatlinfordparish.co.uk

or write to: GLPC,

10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill,

Milton Keynes MK14 6JY.

Tel: 01908 606613

Councillor Vacancies

The Parish Council currently has vacancies for Councillors to represent the Estates of Pennyland, Bolbeck Park and Conniburrow.

If you live in one of the above areas and have an interest in your estate and how decisions about it are reached, then we would like to hear from you.

Please write giving personal details and any relevant experience or interests to: Jenny Sharp (Parish Manager) GLPC, 10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes, MK14 6JY, or ring 01908 606613.

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