

# News & Views

Issue No. 13

Newsletter of Great Linford Parish Council

June 2006



BLAKELANDS... BOLBECK PARK... CONNIBURROW... DOWNS BARN... DOWNHEAD PARK... GIFFARD PARK... GREAT LINFORD... NEATH HILL... PENNYLANDS... TONGWELL... WILL

## Great Linford Parish Council

Great Localities Proud Community

Visit our new website at:  
[www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)

# WEBSITE IS NEW WAY YOU CAN HAVE A SAY!

**W**ell, it may have taken us a bit longer than we thought it would, but the new Parish Council website is now up and running!

The website has been revamped, with a new look, and with what we hope will be fresh and interesting contents.

Parish Councillors decided that it was time to re-launch the website because, as Parish Chairman, Brian Morsley put it, "wherever you go these days, people point you to their website as a necessary way of communicating.

"I know that as a Milton Keynes Councillor as well as a Parish Councillor, I am continually referring matters to Officers of the Council via their website, as well as via email.

"I know also that colleagues on the Parish

Council refer matters to MK Council via its *Streetcare* link on the MKWeb site.

"This is not only a very easy way to report any matters, such as fly-tipping, or broken fences, but it also means that someone will get back to you, either by phone or email. So you are guaranteed a result, and the message is also 'logged' and the appropriate action taken. So, even those of us who are not used to using websites or email, can see that there are definite advantages to these 'new' means of communicating.

"I sincerely hope that residents who live within the parish, enjoy logging onto our new website. Built into the website are ways to tell us what you think and the means to get more involved. We look forward to 'hearing' from you!"

ML

This publication is not affiliated with any other group or organisation, whether political, religious or otherwise

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# Parish supports clamp-down on illegal bikers

Let's know who the bikers are - *in confidence*



**T**he local police are set to clamp down on the use of illegal motor bikes (mini and trial), in public places. These dangerous motor bikes are often driven by teenagers, many without the correct driving licence (or any licence at all), tax or insurance documents.

The police have a range of powers to deal with offenders; bikes can be seized, while a six point penalty on their licence (or future driving licence), a £60 fine and anti social behaviour orders (ASBOs) are all options. Officers may also issue £80 fines for nuisance behaviour.

Although mini-motorbikes are seen as toys, they are legally classed as motor vehicles and cannot be used on any public area unless the rider is over 16, and has a driving licence and tax and insurance for the bike. They also need lights and brakes, must be registered with the DVLA, have registration plates and the riders must wear crash helmets. They should not be used on roads, footpaths or cycle routes.

Many areas in our parish are experiencing

**These are not toys - but proper vehicles that should be licensed, insured and taxed to be legal - as their riders should be!**

problems, and Hainault Avenue in Giffard Park appears to have been designated as a race track by the local youths (sometimes with up to four persons on one machine).

To curtail this problem, and avoid a serious accident, we need to be informed who the culprits are. Parents must know if their teenagers have one of these machines, as must neighbours (due to the horrendous noise that the bikes make!). Please let the Parish Council have details. These will be treated in confidence and you need not give your name. Ring us on (01908) 606613, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. JS

**What do you think? Let us have your views...**

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# Warm welcome for new day-surgery unit at Blakelands

**A** day-surgery for NHS patients will open shortly in a purpose-built Independent Sector Treatment Centre, which has been constructed in the Parish, at Smeaton Close, Blakelands.

The unit will provide a further choice for patients requiring day case orthopaedic procedures to hands, feet and arthroscopy. The unit can also carry out endoscopic investigations, General Surgical procedures including hernia repair, haemorrhoidectomy and excision of minor lesions.

There is scan and X-Ray equipment at the unit, which will be staffed by highly qualified surgeons and nursing staff. All procedures will be carried out for the NHS and no private patients will be seen.

Referrals will be in the normal way, via the General Practitioner. The centre will be open weekdays from 8am to 8pm, times which have been agreed to minimise any inconvenience to local residents.

Concerns that this development is on a public open space have been answered - the site has been designated for healthcare for



**The new day-surgery unit, under construction at Smeaton Close, Blakelands, and due to open next month.**  
*Picture: David Stabler*

many years.

Parish Manager, Jenny Sharp, told *News&Views*: "The Parish Council considers itself very privileged to have this facility on our doorstep and hope that many local residents will be able to benefit from the services that are offered."  
JS

## **Great Linford Parish Allotment Association**

### **ANNUAL PRODUCE SHOW**

**Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 2pm (Entries 12p to 1pm)  
to be held at the Memorial Hall, Great Linford**

**Entries are strictly confined to allotment holders with plots on our allotments sites at Hills Close, Gifford Gate (Great Linford), Armourer Drive, Neath Hill, and Bells Meadow, Willen Park.**

**We welcome all residents to visit the show and see the exhibits  
and also purchase plants, vegetables, jams etc**

**For further details contact: Jenny Sharp on 606613 or 217752**

# Festival of fun football

**D**espite the weather, the all-day Football Festival, organised by Great Linford Football Club, held on Saturday, May 20, turned out to be great fun for all.

Local children in the under-6 age group played fun world cup games in the morning. In the afternoon, six teams from local clubs in the under-7 age group also played games. The event was sponsored by Great Linford Parish Council, which sees local voluntary groups as important elements of the community.

As Parish Manager, Jenny Sharp, pointed out, "we are very fortunate to have sports and recreation facilities at Marsh Drive, the Cricket facilities at the High Street, Great Linford, and the sports facilities at Downs Barn.

"These facilities provide many



All action (above) while Charles Allum, Chair, GLPC (below, left) helps hand out medals, with Williamson and Paul Hanratty of Great Linford FC.



opportunities for various activities including

"There are two football clubs within - Downs Barn FC and Linford FC - which provide opportunities for children, youths within the Parish to participate in football activities

"Over the years the Council has given encouragement to local Clubs and was instrumental in helping Great Linford start up over 12

"The Parish Council continue to support activities for all resi

# Looking after your interests

by Parish Chairman, Brian Morsley

**W**henever I am asked to look back over the past year, in order to give you my annual report, the thing that surprises me the most is not only how quickly the year has gone by, but also how much we have achieved on behalf of residents.

Much of the work that the Parish Council does goes unseen, but like all good operations, it is the work that goes on in the background that makes the whole think work. This is particularly true of planning applications, and we continually vet any that are made to MK Council so that we can look after the interests of all of our 19,000 or so residents.

One aspect of the planning process that the Parish Council is very worried about, is the number of times planning permission is granted retrospectively - sometimes many months after the projects have been completed! This seems to happen particularly with houses which are known as HIMOs, or houses in multiple occupation. Recently I was out delivering polling cards to residents on one particular estate and I had no fewer than 16 cards to deliver to



people living in the one house! Houses which are multi-occupied is an issue the Parish will be keeping a close eye on with regard to retrospective planning permission.

On a personal note, I would like to welcome back Jenny Sharp, our Parish Manager, after a serious illness. Much of Jenny's work goes unnoticed and unrewarded but she continues to be the backbone of the Parish. I would also like to thank Malcolm Lane, our part-time member of staff who produces *News&Views* and looks after our re-launched website. With Jenny and Malcolm and our band of voluntary (and unpaid!) Councillors, we have a team of people dedicated to looking after the interests of all the residents of the Great Linford Parish.

## Facilities available from the Parish

Within the Parish there are a number of sports facilities and halls available for hire by the public. At **Downs Barn** there are football pitches and a pavilion for hire. The pavilion can accommodate 50 people. The meeting area and kitchen are on the first floor and are therefore unsuitable for children's groups or the infirm.

At **Marsh Drive**, Great Linford, there are football pitches (cricket in summer) and tennis courts. Contact the Great Linford Tennis Club on (01908) 691322 for details.

At our **High Street** site at Great Linford, there is a cricket pitch and pavilion. The pavilion has disabled access and is suitable for children's parties and meetings of up to 50 people maximum.

The Parish has over 100 **allotment** plots available for rent, at an average cost of £10 per year, although there is a waiting list. For details about hiring facilities, or to go onto the allotment waiting list, contact the Parish Office (01908) 606613. ML

### Recreation with Jackie

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# Rail track that's now a Redway

The first suggestion of building a branch line from the main line at Wolverton to Newport Pagnell came in 1845 but the venture failed to attract sufficient capital.

The Newport Pagnell Railway Act was passed in 1863 and in 1864 the Newport Railway Company bought the short - one and a quarter mile - Newport Pagnell branch of the Grand Junction Canal opened 1817 closed 1863 - see *News&Views issue no 7 Sept 2004* - with the intention of using part of the route for their new railway. The Company intended to continue the line on to Olney and powers were granted for this extension in 1865 with a further extension to join the Northampton to Peterborough line at Wellingborough. The lines beyond Newport Pagnell were never built and powers lapsed in 1871.

The line was complete by 30th September 1865 when the first locomotive used the line. The next year on Monday, July 23, 1866 the railway opened for goods, cattle and parcel traffic and on Monday September 2, 1867, there was a ceremonial opening of the line for passengers. There were intermediate

stations at Bradwell and Linford - it was originally called Linford - the Great was added in March 1884. The line's main regular passengers were employees of the Railway Works at Wolverton.

In 1875 the line was taken over by the London & North Western Railway who had provided the service from the opening. As with many rural lines the development of road transport gradually began to erode passenger numbers. The first motor bus service was in the country was introduced between Newport Pagnell and Olney in 1898 and the popularity of the motor car through the 20th century eventually spelled the end for the line.

The 2-4-2 former LMS tank engine No.1222 ran for the last time for passenger traffic on 7th September 1964. Goods traffic continued for three years until final closure on 22nd May 1967. The track was lifted later the same year.

The route through Great Linford parish is now part of the Milton Keynes 'Redway' cycle way network. The platforms at Bradwell and Great Linford survive. Great Linford station is east of the bridge off Marsh Drive just before Station Terrace.

You can see a fuller history of the line, with old photographs of Great Linford station and hear an archive recording from a resident of Station Terrace at <http://clutch.open.ac.uk/schools/giffard99/home.html>  
Source -The CLUTCH Club Millennium Awards Scheme @ <http://clutch.open.ac.uk/parentsweb/mtframe.htm>

**The old Linford station and railway line, the route of which is now a 'Redway' cycle path - although the platforms still exist.**



# A Sharp tongue

Parish Manager Jenny Sharp bites back

## Fly-by-night tippers

A number of pink sacks are being fly-tipped in the Capel Drive area of Downs Barn. These do not contain recycling items, and therefore will not be collected by the refuse lorry.

Through investigation, the Parish Council has been able to establish who the culprits are, and their names and addresses have been given to the Enforcement Officer at Milton Keynes Council and further action will be taken. Bags should contain appropriate items and be put out on the morning of the refuse collection. Bags, especially black ones, should never be put out in advance as animals tear them and drag the contents about, attracting rats, foxes etc. Please help the Parish Council to keep your estate in a clean and tidy condition.

## Parking danger to one and all...

We have received complaints about the parking outside Brooksward School at Neath Hill, in the mornings and afternoons. Parents park in an inconsiderate and dangerous manner, without any thought for the safety of their and other peoples' children.

There is plenty of parking available in the nearby local centre, and whilst it is a few more steps to the school, it may avoid an inevitable accident occurring.

Please think before you park, or stop to let your children out of the car, common sense is free and it could save a life.

## Dog-doings disposal

The Parish Council constantly receives requests from residents for additional dog bins. The Parish Council policy is only to provide a limited number of red bins adjacent to sports grounds, parklands, and close to schools. It is not possible to place bins on every dog walker's route.

We applaud those people who pick up after their dogs, and take the waste home with them, but please do not bag it and then throw it in the hedge; contrary to recent articles in the local newspaper it is perfectly acceptable to put the bags in your black bin bag at home.

We do have dog bags available free of charge. If you would like some, please call at the Parish Office, Neath Hill Local Centre. We are open from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

**DO YOU LIVE ON**

**PENNYLAND or**

**BOLBECK PARK**

**DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS  
TO SPARE EACH MONTH?**

**DO YOU HAVE A REAL INTEREST IN  
YOUR AREA AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE  
AN INPUT INTO DECISIONS THAT ARE  
MADE? IF SO, THEN THE PARISH  
COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!**

We are looking to co-opt Councillors to represent these wards, if you would like further information, then please phone Jenny Sharp, Parish Manager, between 9am & 1pm on 01908 606613 or call in at the Parish Office at Neath Hill Local Centre (opposite Clock Tower)

# Do you know your parish councillor?

*GLPC Councillors have elected not to receive any payment for services they give.*

**George Byfield (Conniburrow)**

604063

**Sue Williams (Conniburrow)**

690337

**Joan Pickhaver (Conniburrow)**

678569

**Brian Morsley (Downhead Park/Willen Park)**

666054

**Allan Pugh (Downhead Park/Willen Park)**

662441

**Charles Allum (Downs Barn)**

668115

**Alan Wright (Downs Barn)**

666926

**Colin Tripp (Giffard Park/Blakelands)**

618304

**Gill Hobson (Giffard Park/Blakelands)**

670609

**John Figg (Great Linford)**

666916

**John Perrott (Great Linford)**

393770

**Rod Markley (Great Linford)**

605820

**Mike Williamson (Great Linford)**

605664

**David Stabler (Neath Hill)**

232025

**Alan Williams (Neath Hill)**

677402

Contact Councillors on the above numbers, or through the Parish Office (01908) 606613, or email [gtlinfordparish@btconnect.com](mailto:gtlinfordparish@btconnect.com). Or you can log onto our website at: [www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)



**GREAT LINFORD  
MANOR PARK**

# 2006

**FRIDAY 16 - SUNDAY 18 JUNE**

Please note that due to popularity the Friday evening event is being held in the main grounds, not the garden.

[WWW.WATERSIDEFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.WATERSIDEFESTIVAL.CO.UK)

Friday: Live Music and Picnic • 7.00pm - 9.30pm  
Saturday: Live Music & Stalls • 12.00pm - 9.15pm  
Sunday: Live Music & Stalls • 12.00pm - 5.30pm



## SOME OF THIS YEAR'S ATTRACTIONS:

**LIVE MUSIC**

ON 2 STAGES AND IN THE CHURCH!

CANAL BOAT RIDES ARTS, CRAFTS AND OTHER STALLS

ART WORKSHOPS BBQ ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

TUG OF WAR BAR BIKE RIDE

JUNIOR FOOTBALL MATCHES

**SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS  
FREE PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE  
FROM SELECTED OUTLETS SOON.**