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News & Views

Issue No. 19

Newsletter of Great Linford Parish Council

June 2008

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News&Views is published by Great Linford Parish Council. The newsletter is not affiliated with any other group or organisation, whether political, religious or otherwise.

Contact the Parish Council on (01908) 606613 or via our website at: www.great-linford.gov.uk.

New parish manager off to a sprint start

As a former international runner, as well as management consultant and mum to two lively young children, Eirwen Tagg knows all about being 'fast out of the blocks.' As the newly-appointed Parish Manager of Great Linford Parish Council, Eirwen may find being nimble on her toes a useful skill in her new role.

Eirwen and husband have lived in Great Linford for 12 years, and they balance the demands of parenthood with careers. As well as being mum and doing the school run (preferably by cycle) Eirwen adds walking their mad Springer spaniel to her daily routine, which also includes being 'chief bottle washer to husband Chris', who says Eirwen, 'does something in IT'.

As a youngster, Eirwen ran for Wales as a sprinter. Later she gained an honours degree in sports administration and science from Trent Polytechnic.



As a resident of the parish, Eirwen Tagg, the new parish manager, has an understanding of the issues affecting residents.

FUNDRAISER

Being a mum brought Eirwen into contact with the pre-school world, and she became heavily involved with organising fundraising events for the children and their families. 'This in turn gave me an opportunity to be on the Memorial Hall committee, a venue which I believe, is an asset to the village. It is run by the committee for the community and through some great social events we are raising enough money to refurbish the building.

'The Parish Office staff are here to help with issues about the local area and activities,' says Eirwen. Malcolm, our Admin. Assistant and I, are here to help, so please feel free to pop in and discuss issues, or ask questions.'

The parish office is at 10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill, MK14 6JY (opposite the Clocktower) and is open 9am to 4pm weekdays. Ring us on (01908) 606613 or email the parish manager at: gtlinfordparish@btconnect.com.

Weekly 'surgeries' for you to have your say

As the new parish manager, Eirwen Tagg (above) is anxious to get to grips with any issues that are of concern to residents. The parish holds two weekly 'surgeries' at its offices. The 'Streetcare' surgery is attended by Milton Keynes Council officials who are responsible for cleansing, landscaping, and highways, and is held on the second Monday of each month from, 10 to 11 am.

The local police hold their surgery at the parish office every Wednesday between 10 and 11am for any police-related issues. Residents are welcome to attend either surgery. Ring us on (01908) 606613, or email: gtlinfordparish@btconnect.com.

Jamie is the new PCSO on the block

As a former semi-professional tennis player, Jamie Collett has played in both European and World ranking games. These days, he is getting known on a slightly smaller patch of the world – as PCSO C9431, operating in the north of Great Linford Parish, alongside fellow police community support officer Michelle Morgan.

SEMI-PRO TENNIS

Twenty-six year old Jamie started playing tennis at aged 6, and moved up to play for Middlesex and then Hertfordshire after a family move to St Albans. He played semi-pro tennis from 16 until he left university in 2005, where he gained a BSc in Computer Science and a BA (Hons) in Sports Studies. Although Jamie still plays for Hertfordshire Mens

teams, he gave up semi-pro tennis so that he could pursue a new career. He moved to MK in 2006, and decided to apply for the role of PCSO for Thames Valley Police, in Milton Keynes.

'I absolutely love everything about the job and it has surpassed my expectations,' says Jamie. 'The patch I look after along with PCSO Michelle Morgan includes Neath Hill, Pennylands, Bolbeck Park, Tongwell, Blakelands, Gifford Park and Great Linford. It is a large area but we try our best to cover all parts!'

About his job, Jamie says he 'hopes to improve the quality of life for the people of North Milton Keynes and help lower crime levels even more, with the help of information from residents and the co-operation of my colleagues.'

ML



PCSO Jamie Collett pictured with fellow PCSO Michelle Morgan on part of their 'patch' at Neath Hill. Picture: David Stabler.

You've spoken ...

... We've listened



Did you know that Great Linford North has a Neighbourhood Action Group?

The NAG involves the local community working together with the police, parish councils and other organisations to make improvements for those living and working in the area...namely **You!**

The Great Linford North NAG has three main priorities:

- Parking
- Vandalism and graffiti
- Rubbish

The NAG is actively finding solutions to these three issues. If you would like to find out more or want to get involved please contact:

Great Linford Parish Council on 01908 606613
Email: gtilinfordparish@btconnect.com

Or Lisa Emmanuel, Safer Neighbourhoods Manager, on 01908 252 767

Centre helping to give children a sure start

Children's Centres are at the heart of the Government's Change for Children programme, providing a central role in improving the Every Child Matters outcomes for young children.

Conniburrow *Sure Start* Children's Centre, based at Germander Park School, provides a safe, welcoming environment and offers a range of services. This includes health care, social support, training and links to the school through an extended services programme, with qualified teacher support on site. GLPC parish councillor for Conniburrow, Pauline Wallis, has just become Chair of the new Centre.

The range of services available at the Centre includes English language classes, adult education, parenting skills, advice on debts, benefits and tax credits. Also available is information on where to find childcare and the chance

for babies and children to explore and learn through the use of high quality toys and activities, while the toy library offers the chance for parents and carers to borrow resources to use at home.

Health advice sessions run by health visitors and midwives are well attended and supported by the Oral Health and Public Health Promotion departments of MK Primary Care Trust.

Razia Lakha is *Sure Start* Children's Centres Co-ordinator in MK. Says Razia: 'We are embarking on a very exciting new building that will allow us to extend these services further in a purpose-built centre which will still be located at Germander Park School.' The Centre is currently operating within the school, until the new building opens next month (July).

For more about the *Sure Start* Centre, contact Family Support Workers, Tina on 0753 496 0123 and Aleks on 0790 305 3827.

Waterside Festival on June 20 - 22

Billed as one of the biggest free community events in Milton Keynes – the Great Linford Waterside Festival, takes place this year from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd June 2008 (on a different weekend from previous years).

The event is a great weekend out for all the family and features musical acts and attractions to keep everyone amused. It kicks off on Friday evening in Great Linford Manor Park, where there is a 'Picnic in the Park'. Saturday and Sunday will see a full programme of live music, including many local bands, arts, stalls and other attractions in the grounds in Manor Park. One feature, which was a huge success last year, is Youth Stage, giving young people the chance to perform.

FESTIVAL WEBSITE

There will also be canal boat rides, junior football matches, a variety of dancing displays, art workshops, craft stalls, charity stalls and sideshows, fairground rides, bouncy castle, historical walk and a full programme in St Andrew's Church. When you have worked up an appetite after that, there is to be a barbeque, beer tent, ice cream and other great food available. The Dog Show will make a welcome return on the Sunday June 21st. All events take place in the grounds of Great Linford Manor Park. To keep admission to the event free and in response to increasing costs, there will be a nominal fee for the use of our car parking areas. For more information visit the official Waterside Festival website at www.watersidefestival.co.uk



Fun and family meet at the Waterside Festival (above) while the Dog Show (below) makes a welcome return to the event this year.



Capture festival spirit and win a prize

Great Linford Parish Council is sponsoring prizes for the best drawing, painting or collage, catching the spirit of the Waterside Festival, either done on the day or inspired by the events over the weekend.

First and second prize vouchers, of £20 and £10, will be awarded to two entries in categories, under 8 and under 12 years of age, judged to be most evocative of the Festival.

Images can be in any medium; collage, pencil,

crayon, felt pen, watercolour or oil paint on paper or board *but not more than A3 size [300mm x 420mm]*

Bring your entries, which must have your name address, contact number and age on the back, to the parish office, 10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill *on or before Friday July 4.*

Entries will be displayed before judging takes place at the Council Meeting due to take place on July 15th. DS

Councillor profile



Rod Markley

Rod Markley, joined the Parish Council in 2005

and was re-elected in May 2007 for Great Linford, where he has lived for over 30 years, having moved from Bletchley. He worked for Milton Keynes Development Corporation as Publicity Coordinator on promotions like the, now famous, Red Balloon advert and a number of Housing Exhibitions along with major Company Relocations. He left the Corporation to run his own Advertising and Marketing Agency in 1987 until retiring in 2006. He is a member of the Finance, General Purpose and Planning Committee and represents the Parish Council, and is Chairman, of the newly formed Neighbourhood Action Group for the North of the Parish.

'Having been involved in the development of this superb city of ours, serving on the Parish Council is a way that I can continue to serve the community of Great Linford.'

Call Rod on (01908) 605820 or by email: r.markley@btinternet.com

300-year-old bequests helping people to this day

Two local charities support young people and people in crisis as a result of bequests made in wills some 300 years ago. Several former Great Linford residents, including Sir William Pritchard and Dame Sarah Pritchard, set up charities in their wills – and those bequests are still working today. The Great Linford Advancement in Life Charity specifically supports young people up to the age of 25 in pursuit of their education (see item right). Other recent grants helped schools to support families with school visit costs, bought equipment and materials for students as individuals or through grants to schools, and supported training for a young sports person with promise.

EQUIPMENT

The Great Linford Relief in Need Charity helps people who have difficulty at a particular time and where the local authority or other agencies cannot support through the regular channels. Often applicants are referred on to the charity by an organisation such as the Citizens Advice Bureau. Recent grants have helped supply domestic and mobility equipment to residents.

The sums maintained and invested by the Trustees are not vast, but the grants can make a difference. Information and application forms for both charities can be had from Secretary to the Trustees, Ted Pawley, 16 Lodge Gate, Great Linford. MK14 5EW. Applicants must live in the Great Linford Parish area. TP

Help for Ashley's trip to Venezuela

Football is an international language, as one former member of Great Linford Football Club discovered when he and friends decided to use the skills they had learned for the benefit of less fortunate children in Venezuela.

Ashley Whitmore, from Great Linford, was able to carry out his plan, thanks to a grant from the Great Linford Advancement in Life Charity (see item left).

Ashley played for the GL Football Club before becoming a referee and coach, and joining the adult team.



The trip was not all work - and Ashley (pictured) was able to climb to the summit of Mount Roraima.

PLAYED FOOTBALL

With other students of the Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, he visited Venezuela for a month. Part of the expedition was a week-long community project with Ashley and his group painting a football court, purchasing nets and giving away leather footballs that Ashley took with him. 'The experience of the culture was amazing,' said Ashley. 'Despite the language barrier, we were able to understand each other and play football matches.' The

group could not ignore the poverty around them and they discovered a school in Playa Colarada which was just a metal shack with broken tables and chairs.

Now the group is raising funds to help equip this school, and Ashley hopes to return in his gap year. 'I thank the Great Life Advancement Charity for the grant and helping me to experience this culture, which has changed my life.' ML

Does your community group need support?



A GLPC grant helped to create and maintain the border (above) in Great Linford High Street.

Picture: David Stabler

Great Linford Parish Council not only provides services to residents, but is also able to give grants to deserving causes. Each year GLPC sets aside about £3,000 from which it can make grants to community groups, such as Scouts, Brownies, Playgroups, and Senior Citizens Groups or any organisation in the parish that is working for residents.

Rather than just giving money, GLPC prefers buying equipment on behalf of the applicant group. Last year GLPC made grants to the *Great Linford Waterside Festival*, the annual event in the grounds of Great Linford Manor, (see page 3). The parish also gave money to *MK Welfare Rights Group*, which provides free and independent advice on state benefits, what can be claimed and helps with completing letters or forms and appeal tribunals.

GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE

Great Linford Memorial Hall, Marsh Drive also received a grant from GLPC, as did *Headway*, a national charity group with a local branch at Neath Hill, which gives help and support to people affected by brain injury.

Other groups which received money from GLPC included *Downs Barn Dragonflies Pre-School*, at the Cross & Stable Church, Downs Barn, and *Great Linford Community Gardeners*, who established and maintain the border in the village High Street. If you think your community group qualifies, get details of how to apply for a GLPC grant, and an on-line application form by clicking on "Grants and how to apply for one" in the *About GLPC* column on the web site www.great-linford.gov.uk. Or, contact Eirwen Tagg the Parish Manager, on (01908) 606613. DS



Parish Council year reviewed

by Parish Chairman, Brian Morsley

This last year has seen many changes. At the May elections, eight new councillors were elected, co-opted to fill vacant seats, or replace the five councillors who stepped down.

The most significant change was the retirement of Jenny Sharp and the appointment of Eirwen Tagg to be our new Parish Manager, but more of this later.

Planning matters have continued to concern the Parish Council. The Parish Council made objections to Milton Keynes Council about: 23 houses in multiple occupation in Conniburrow; the demolition of Spring Cottage, Willen Lane; 14 flats in Broadway Avenue; the removal of Secklow Gate and parking in CMK; a mobile phone mast at Neath Hill; and five other incompatible house extensions.

All have either been withdrawn by the developers, or turned down by Milton Keynes Council. The Parish Council has brought about changes to the Rocla development and MKC has decided to rethink parking policy after pressure for changes to HiMO parking standards. Recently the Parish Council raised doubts about the proposed expansion of Mercedes Benz at Tongwell relating to parking provision and increased traffic on Brickhill Street.

But not everything we oppose is changed. Councillor Stabler represented the Parish Council's objections at the Gyosei public enquiry but the Planning Inspector ruled against MKC and the development is now being built.

Revisions to parish boundaries are being considered by MKC and we await the outcome of representations made by the Parish Council about Rocla housing being included in the parish and the anomalies of Willen Village being in Campbell Park parish but in Linford South MK Council Ward.

The Parish Council has encouraged and taken an active part in establishing the two Neighbourhood Action Groups, which are starting to tackle the priorities identified in surveys. The dedicated neighbourhood policing teams of Constables and Community Support Offices are at full strength and actively patrolling the parish. Parishioners requested more dog poo bins; we now have 17, and thanks to responsible dog owners dog fouling is now a minor problem in the parish, as is

graffiti, thanks to MKC's graffiti busters prompt cleaning efforts. The derelict site at Loriner Place was cleared and seeded to provide an attractive open area in Downs Barn.

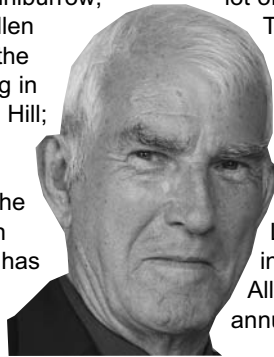
The Parish Council made grants to Welfare Rights, Downs Barn Dragonflies, the Waterside Festival, Headway, Great Linford Community Gardeners and the Memorial Hall.

Thanks to grants received, the all-weather cricket pitch is installed at Marsh Drive, and the Multi Use Games Area at Downs Barn has been completely refurbished and is attracting a lot of use since it opened last July.

The Parish Council has continued to pressure MKC to extend the parking at Marsh Drive and we hope this will soon be resolved.

Our five allotment sites, with 125 plots, including the transfer of ownership to the Parish Council of Larkspur Avenue Conniburrow, are in great demand and a thriving Allotment Association held a fifth annual show in the Memorial Hall.

Section 106 cash from the Stantonbury Park Farm development is promised to develop 30 more plots at the reserve site owned by the Parish Council at Sandy Close.



'After many years of public service, it is time for a change'

I must mention Jenny Sharp who retired at the end of in April, after nearly seven years dedicated service as Clerk to the Parish Council. Jenny worked tirelessly to deal with the many problems reported by parishioners, to administer the allotments and playing fields at the High Street and Marsh Drive, which arguably provide the best pitches in Milton Keynes, and to oversee the sound finances of the PC. On behalf of the parish I thank Jenny and wish her the best of health and happiness in her retirement.

I would also like to welcome to Eirwen Tagg our new Parish Manager, a Great Linford resident and allotment holder, whose enthusiasm for the locality will be a great asset to the Parish Council and the residents we represent.

Finally, I will stand down as Parish Council Chairman and Councillor following the annual meeting. After many years of public service, not just in Great Linford parish, it is time for a change and a chance at last to spend more quality time with my wife and family.

Brian Morsley

Councillor profile



Shirley Loftus

Shirley Loftus is one of the four parish councillors for Great Linford. After a career in catering, Shirley had her own restaurant in the late 1990s. The stock market fall and two road accidents left her with spine damage and Osteo Arthritis and unable to work. But not one to let such mishaps hold her back, Shirley now spends her time doing voluntary work and fund-raising for charity.

When husband Bob was attacked in 1995, Shirley added the local Victim Support Group to her charitable efforts, but had to give that up when her husband became very ill with cancer. As you might expect, Shirley then added Cancer Care to her efforts.

Says Shirley: 'I really like people; I find them all very interesting and have friends from all walks of life.' She recently helped a young Polish family, through language and social difficulties they were having, to understand and to integrate, which they have done successfully.

Shirley became a parish councillor, 'Because I care about the welfare and civil rights of all. I care about the community and the people in the area. I am prepared to give my time and energy and experience of working with others, on their behalf.'

Contact Shirley on (01908) 550357.

Nothing to do?

The last issue of News&Views featured many activities for young people. Here are the contact details of the organisations.

Buckinghamshire Army Cadet Force
10th (Blakelands) Platoon 19:30 to 21:30
Mondays and Wednesdays.
20th (Conniburrow) Platoon 19:30 to 21:30
Mondays and Wednesdays.
Contact, TA Centre Aylesbury (01296) 744553.

MK Sea Cadet Corps
Email: tswhaddon@msn.com
Call MK 561589 Tuesday or Friday evenings.
Website <http://units.ms-sc.org/miltonkeynes>

MaD - Make a Difference
Encourage young people 13-25 to volunteer in the local community.
Email mkmv@milton-keynes.gov.uk or call MK 253272.

Great Linford Youth Cricket Team
For 11 to 16 year olds with two teams under 16's and under 14's
Email glycc@greatlinfordyouthcc.co.uk or call MK 220038. Website www.greatlinfordyouthcc.co.uk

Juliet Ratnage's School of Performing Arts
Classes at Giffard Park Community Annex.
Call Juliet on MK 561420.

Scouting for boys, girls and adults.
Great Linford (St Andrews) Group
Call Graham Eaton on MK 664625.
Giffard Park Group
Email martyn@agerhome.freeserve.co.uk.
Call Martyn Ager on MK 695125.
Website www.scout.org.uk

Air Training Corps
Email Admin2532@hbwing.org.uk
Call Fit Lt David Smith on MK 317773.

The Mapcap Centre Wolverton
Dance and drama classes for children of all ages.
Email info@madcap.org.uk or call Carolyn Vale on MK 320179.
Website www.madcap.org.uk

Streetdance with Nemis
Hip-Hop dance, call Sam on 07834 347 849.

Woolard Daniels Dance School
Call Rosemary Daniels on 07738 767 475.

Frantic-UK
Hip-hop, popping, locking, breakdance, jazz, salsacise and belly dancing.
Email info@frantic-uk.com
Call Emie-Lu on MK 320023.
Website www.frantic-uk.com

Brownies
7 years to 10 years. Meet at Great Linford Primary School Tuesdays term time 6pm till 7:30pm.
Call Brown Owl on MK 503403 or 07921237920.

Karate
5:30 to 7:30 at the Memorial Hall on a Thursday.
Call Mark Featherstone on MK 614078 or 07958243686 or email markf990@Aol.com

Jugglers 7pm to 10pm at the Memorial Hall Wednesday. Call Graham on MK 210264 or email graham@thegreatgappo.fsnet.co.uk



Cut out and keep



Blooming lovely - a scene from last year's Allotment Association Produce Show. Picture: David Stabler

Plotolders do it via the web

Whether a new plot holder, or a time-served 'son of the soil,' residents with an allotment plot often need a bit of support and advice. This is where the Great Linford Allotment Association steps in. The Allotment Association represents any plotholder on the five-allotment sites owned by Great Linford Parish Council. These are at Bells Meadow, Gifford Gate, Hills Close, Larkspur Avenue, and Neath Hill.

The association meets once a month at 7:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday at the Cricket Pavilion, High Street, Great Linford. All plotholders are welcome to attend. The Association's aim is to have every plot in full cultivation. They also

encourage their plotholders to take part in competitions and trips.

Highlight of the year is the annual produce show, which is to be held this year at the Memorial Hall, Great Linford on August 31st.

NEW WEBSITE

Details of produce show classes and recipes can be had at the Association's new website at: <http://www.greatlinford-allotments.co.uk> - under 'Produce Show Classes 2008.' Access the site from the GLPC website (www.great-linford.gov.uk) and click on 'Useful Links' and then 'Parish and Community Information.'

GREAT LINFORD PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

PRODUCE SHOW

Sunday 31st August 2008

**At the Memorial Hall,
High Street, Great Linford.**

**Event open to all Allotment Holders with plots
at Neath Hill, Willen Park, Great Linford,
and Conniburrow**

**Doors open at Noon
Judging between 1 and 2pm
Public entry from 2pm**

For details go to: www.greatlinford-allotments.co.uk

The 'local' tennis club that does much for the wider community

The Great Linford Tennis Club was formed soon after the courts were built and thanks to the tremendous effort made by our founding chairman, Alan Proctor, the Club became the leaseholder, from the Parish Council, of the tennis courts in 1992. The centre of the three courts was built with wooden hoarding around the sides to enable multi-purpose use.

The Club soon began to grow and we eventually entered teams into the Milton Keynes Tennis League. Claire Tobin spurred on the juniors and established junior teams in the local leagues. Things were a struggle to start with, but with the guidance of Alan Proctor and the enthusiasm of Claire, the Club established its own identity and logo. Not just a small local club, we can boast that we have had members with addresses as far away as Southampton and even Canada!

When Downs Barn Tennis Club disbanded, most of its members joined Great Linford. This boosted our capability of fielding better men's, mixed and ladies teams. Two of our men's teams tour abroad and play matches in France, Spain or wherever they can find local opposition.

In 2002, vandals managed to drive a car through all three courts and set fire to it in the centre court. With some hard work, the complete shambles of the three courts were turned into two usable courts within hours of the incident until all the courts were resurfaced and refurbished some weeks later,

by Milton Keynes Council. Our membership suffered that year. Vandalism, however, is very low, as most locals are actually members or ex-members of the Club. As was pointed out to one junior person, it was cheaper to join the Club rather than replace the jumper he ruined trying to go under the fence!

The Club actively promotes tennis with coaching for members and non-members, both adult and junior. We also liaise with two schools when their curriculum includes tennis.

The Club has also helped to promote tennis in the neighbourhood with twelve months of essentially free tennis by use of an 'Awards for All' Sports Grant.

Club promotes tennis in the area with the help of an 'Awards for All' sports grant

The number of courts available to the tennis club has restricted the amount of coaching that can be organised as the number of members reaches over 160 each year. Their interests have to be taken

into account when allocating court time to junior coaching (*Tennis Works* organise week-long tennis sessions during the summer holidays), senior coaching, club night, team matches and for public hire.

The club has its own website, which helps people keep up to date with events that are going on, matches being played, competitions, coaching and so on. A membership form can be downloaded from the club's website at: www.clublog.co.uk/clubs/Gt_Linford_Tennis_Club.

Here's to another twenty plus years of tennis for Great Linford and the surrounding areas of Milton Keynes!

Mike Battson



The tennis courts at Marsh Drive, Great Linford. Picture: David Stabler

Councillor profile



Simon Teesdale

Simon Teesdale is one of our new parish councillors, who represents Downhead and Willen Parks, alongside Brian Morsley. Simon has worked as an Environmental Health Officer in Milton Keynes for seventeen years. He has enjoyed living in Downhead Park for ten years and has experienced many changes in the area as the city has expanded, developed and adapted.

As an EHO, Simon experiences 'Nuisance Conflict' on an almost daily basis and in his experience 'a sensible input at an early stage, can have advantageous effects and positive results for the community.' Simon joined the Parish Council to share these skills. Simon's family enjoy the simple pleasures in life, he says: 'lovely food, much of it home grown, and a nice bottle of wine shared with my wife in the garden, whilst our young girls tend to the garden and exercise the dog!'

Simon can be contacted on (01908) 201466 or at simon.teesdale@milton-keynes.gov.uk

GLPC parish councillors

Conniburrow

Joan Pickhaver
(01908) 678569

Pauline Wallis
(01908) 395433

George Byfield, MBE
(01908) 604063

Downs Barn

Charles Allum
(01908) 668115

Angela Connor
(01908) 606613

Great Linford

Brian Williams
(01908) 671903

Anita Rose
(01908) 200433

Rod Markley
(01908) 605820

Shirley Loftus
(01908) 550357

Downhead Park and Willen Park

Vacancy

Simon Teesdale
(01908) 201466

Giffard Park and Blakelands

Colin Tripp
(01908) 618304

Cecil Macaulay
(01908) 231027

Neath Hill

David Stabler
(01908) 672599

Sally Ellis
(01908) 509521

Pennyland and Bolbeck Park

John Brockwell
(01908) 676493

Vacancy

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

Councillor profile

Angela Connor

When Angela Connor isn't 'back of house' at Milton Keynes Theatre, where among other things, she monitors the comings and goings of performers and other visitors through the Stage Door, she is looking after the interests of residents at Downs Barn, for which she is parish councillor, along with Charles Allum. Angela, who moved to Downs Barn ten years ago, from Conniburrow, has four children ranging in age from 16 to 4. 'I became a school governor almost nine years ago as I want to be involved with my children's lives and their education. This has escalated into caring about the wider community - hence me becoming a Parish Councillor,'

she says. Angela has been a parish councillor for a year and finds it 'very interesting and informative and I love being able to give feedback from the parish council to the community and vice versa, about what is happening within the community and/or what needs to happen/improve.'

'I have also just become a volunteer for Help the Aged, working in their Snack and Chat in the food hall at CMK one day a week, which involves some serving of food and beverages, preparation and tidying up but most importantly listening to people who come in and having a chat with them.' Contact Angela on (01908) 606613.



Yours for hire



Downs Barn Pavilion. *Picture: David Stabler*

Sports facilities and pavilions maintained by Great Linford Parish Council can, and are, hired by many different sports clubs and community groups. Facilities include the multi-sport facility and pavilion at Downs Barn (left), the sports facility at Marsh Drive, and cricket ground and pavilion at High Street, Great Linford. The tennis courts are used by Great Linford Tennis Club (see page seven for more information).

For more about hiring halls (£9.70 per hour) and sports facilities, contact Parish Manager, Eirwen Tagg on (01908) 606613, or get in touch by email, at gtlinfordparish@btconnect.com. You can also call into the parish office at 10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill local centre (opposite the Clocktower), between 9am and 4pm weekdays. Get more from our website at: www.great-linford.gov.uk ML

Middle and leg please

Opening bat for Kislingbury (right) Lee Abrahams makes his mark at the crease, in the first game of the season against home side Stony Stratford Cricket Club III XI team at the GLPC's Great Linford High Street ground. After last season's promotion, Stony Stratford now play in the Northants Division 8 league and sightscreens are a 'must have' requirement for any team in this league. GLPC agreed to provide sightscreens and scoreboards for the High Street and Marsh Drive cricket grounds to enhance the facilities used by Stony Stratford, New City, The Printers and North Bucks Ambulance Cricket Clubs.

A portable practice net was also bought by GLPC to use with the all-weather cricket pitch built last year at the Marsh Drive sports ground. For more about the cricket clubs and facilities provided and maintained by GLPC, see October's **News&Views** (No.17) in the newsletter archive on the GLPC web site at: www.great-linford.gov.uk. DS



Lee Abrahams makes his mark. *Picture David Stabler*