

Great Linford Parish Council News & Views

Issue Seven

September 2004

**The Taj Mahal...
St Paul's Cathedral...
Sydney Opera House...
10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill.**

Buildings to inspire awe and wonderment in all who bear witness to them - but only one is the new home of Great Linford Parish Council.

If you wish to ask a question or raise an issue with the Parish Council you can now do so face-to-face with our Clerk, Jenny Sharp. The office is open Monday to Friday, times may vary.



We are hoping to offer more facilities over the course of the next year but in the meantime you can view planning applications and report problems that you feel we need to be dealing with. Recycling bags and dog waste bags are also available free from the office.

What kind of facilities would you like to see the Parish Council offering? Let us know by dropping in, writing to the office at 10 Tower Drive, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes MK14 5JY, telephone 01908 606613 or email clerk@greatlinfordparish.co.uk.

David Lovesy, Editor and Councillor

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SOMETHING TO SAY?

If you have any material or wish to express an opinion in the GLPC News & Views (quarterly) then post to the Parish Office or email it to "editor@greatlinfordparish.co.uk"

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

PLEASE KEEP YOUR ASS OF THE FOOTPATH [PART 2]!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REDWAYS?

Weren't they specially designed to be ridden on?

Correct, the redways are covered by the 1980 Highways Act and are open to use by the public for pedal cycles or those on foot only. So no driving your ass, sheep, swine, cattle or, and please take note, no riding mules or HORSES either - sorry not even that police horse, thank you Constable!

Any use of a 'mechanically propelled vehicle' is not permitted on the redways. Exemptions are made for; emergency service, maintenance and cleaning vehicles and gas, water or electricity repairs. Naturally the law says that a mechanically propelled vehicle is defined as a vehicle constructed so that it can be propelled mechanically. Well that's clear isn't it?

Some vehicles fall outside this definition -lawnmowers for instance, electric disabled vehicles and electrically assisted pedal cycles, as long as they are ridden by persons over 14 years old. The exemptions are specified in the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 and the Road Traffic Act 1988.

So an electrically assisted bicycle can be ridden on the redway, by the over 14's, provided it has pedals by which it may be separately propelled and the motor output is no more than 220 watts and the benefit from electrical assistance is only up to 15 miles per hour. It's hardly worth the extra expense of fitting an electric motor?

Other mechanically propelled vehicles such as a golf buggy, motor bike, powered scooters, petrol or electric, are definitely NOT permitted on a redway. But you could talk your lawn mower for a stroll along the redway - provided you push it and do not

sit on it! What fantastic laws we have in this country?

WHAT ABOUT THOSE BUGGIES?

Ah yes that reminds me, I must explain about those electric disabled buggies that are growing in popularity. Their use on roads and footpaths and the redways are covered in law by the Invalid Carriages on Highways Regulations 1988 and the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. Wow! To qualify to use one you have to be suffering from some physical defect or physical disability. You do not qualify if you are just lazy, bone-idle or can't be fagged to walk to the pub.

First of all there are two mechanically propelled types, referred to as Classes 2 and 3. Class 2 should be incapable of travelling at more than 4 mph and Class 3 can go more than 4 mph but no more than a maximum of 8 mph. Both must carry only one person and if you have the 8 mph Formula 1 version it must have a horn and rear view mirror fitted and working. But please no loud horn blasts between 23.30 and 07.00, OK?

If you use either version on the carriageway of any road it must have lights in compliance with the Road Vehicles Regulations Act 1984. That seems to be reasonable doesn't it?

So to use any electric disabled buggy on a footpath or redway it must not be driven at more than 4 mph and it has to be fitted with a speed indicator device. One final point Class 3 buggies can not be driven by anyone under 14 years of age.

Councillor David Stabler is the PC representative on the Sustainable Transport and Road Safety Forum.

NOTICEBOARD

Tenants Resource Centre

31 Farthing Grove, Netherfield
mkc-housingforum@trcentre.fsnet.co.uk

01908 676215

At the centre we help tenants in many ways. it's open four mornings a week, Monday - Thursday between 10am and 1pm (later on Tuesdays).

It's run by volunteers, and we can always do with extra help no matter how small. Free training can be provided.

To find out more, drop us a line, phone, visit or email.

DO YOU BELONG TO A LOCAL GROUP OR ORGANISATION? DO YOU WANT TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT?

The Parish Council is trying to compile a directory of groups at our new Parish Office. Please send details of your club or society to:

Jenny Sharp (Parish Clerk)
10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill
Milton Keynes MK14 5JY
or editor@greatlinfordparish.co.uk

CORRECTION CONUNDRUM

When is a footpath not a footpath?

When it is a footway!

Our reader D.P.Findel-Hawkins had rightly drawn to the Editor's attention the subtle difference between a footpath and a footway, which may not have been all that clear in David Stabler's feature "KEEP YOUR ASS OFF THE FOOTPATH" [part 1 in issue 6].

What difference can there be, you gasp? If you can stand the wait we will get David to explain in more detail in the next edition. That is bound to make our Christmas issue a collector's item!

MEET YOUR LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS

They may be your local Beat Officers but they're people too! Here's a little bit more on your local law enforcers!

WPC 3164 Lavinia Cutting looks after Neath Hill, Pennylands, Tongwell, Bolbeck Park, Downhead Park and Willen Park. When not on the beat this woman of nature is found either on her allotment or horseriding on her family farm!

PC 3436 Dave Monkhouse covers Conniburrow and Downs Barn. He is a fitness fanatic who works out daily, and joined the force 18 years ago "out of curiosity". Curiosity obviously got the better of him because he's still here!

If you need to speak with them, get in touch through CMK Police Station (01908 686000) or your local residents association.



A SHARP TONGUE

Our Parish Clerk Jenny Sharp lets off steam...

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Parish Council currently has vacancies for Councillors for the estates of Neath Hill and Great Linford. Do you have an interest in your community and would like to have an input in the decisions that are made. In order to be considered, please apply in writing giving brief details of any relevant experience, and send to:

The Parish Clerk, Great Linford Parish Council, 10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill Local Centre, Neath Hill MK14 5JY

DOGS & DOG BINS

The Parish Council has recently installed a dog waste bin, by the entrance to Downs Barn Sports Facility in Pannier Place. PLEASE NOTE that dogs are not allowed on the Football pitches, likewise they are also not allowed on The High Street and Marsh Drive cricket and football grounds in Great Linford. Allowing dogs to foul any public areas is an offence and can incur a substantial financial penalty. Dog Bins are supplied by the Parish Council (each bin costs £100 + £2.20 each time it is emptied). This cost is met by every Council Tax payer in the Parish, not just the dog owners. The cost of the bins each year is a significant amount and the intention of the Parish Council is not to increase the number of bins, but to actually decrease the number. All dog owners should be taking their dog waste home with them. Wrapped twice, it is perfectly acceptable to put this in your dustbin. Please co-operate and make the Parish a cleaner and healthier place to live in.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There appears to be a great deal of confusion about the role that the Parish Council plays in the granting of Planning Applications. Once an application is submitted to Milton Keynes Council, then the Parish Council are informed of it. We do obtain the plans and subsequently make comments about them, however we have no statutory power and the ultimate decision is made by the Planning Department at Milton Keynes Council (or in the case of contentious applications, by the Development Control Committee). Plans are available at the Parish Office, for inspection by the public, if there are any that you wish to inspect you may visit the office at Neath Hill Local Centre.



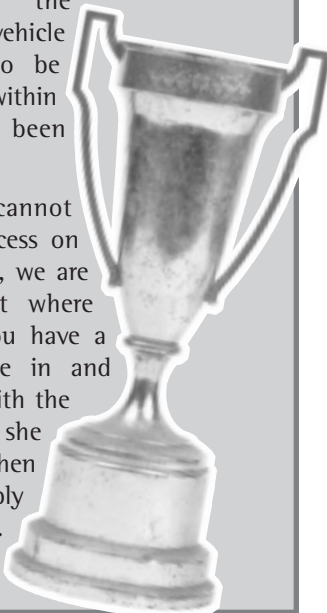
OUR RECENT SUCCESSSES...

Although our Parish Office has only been open for a very short time, we have already had some successes.

A gentleman reported that a redway had very overgrown trees and shrubs. Our Clerk swung into action and contacted the landscape department at Milton Keynes Council. The following day the gentleman poked his head round the office door and said "thank you, they are doing the work at this moment". For once our Clerk was rendered speechless, as not even she expected this sort of service, thanks go to Milton Keynes Council for their co-operation.

Another resident reported a seemingly abandoned van, which had been parked for several days, on the pavement, on a corner. The Clerk contacted the local police with the details (the vehicle turned out to be illegal), and within days it had been removed.

Whilst we cannot guarantee success on every occasion, we are here to assist where possible. If you have a problem, come in and have a chat with the Clerk. If she cannot help, then she will probably know who can.



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The National Childbirth Trust

The NCT is Europe's largest pregnancy, childbirth and early parenting charity helping at least 500,000 parents and parents-to-be every year. The charity wants all parents to have an experience of pregnancy, birth and early parenthood that enriches their lives and gives them confidence in being a parent. It offers information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood to all parents to give them the opportunity to make informed decisions.

Locally, the Milton Keynes branch of the NCT is very active, providing a range of services to support pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood (or childcare!) in the city and surrounding villages. We have coffee groups running in every area of the city, including a group at Centrecom, CMK (Friday 2 to 3.30) ideal for those who prefer a neutral location, use public transport, or just live in CMK. Call **0709 203 1752** for details. Breastfeeding support is available through our local counsellor Sarah on **504849** and also our national helpline **0870 444 8708**. We also hold two Nearly New Sales of quality nearly new maternity, baby and young children's clothes, nursery equipment, books and toys each year. These sales offer a valuable opportunity for people to purchase baby and child related items at a fraction of the cost of new, with the reassurance that the items are of good quality. Parents who have items that they no longer require are able to sell them and the NCT receives a commission from the sale of the goods. See the box on the left for details of the next sale near you!

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PARISH FACILITIES

There are within the Parish a large amount of sports facilities,
all for hire by the public:



Downs Barn: Football Pitches and a Pavilion which may be hired. The Pavilion has a maximum capacity of 50 and is on the first floor with an open staircase. It is therefore unsuitable for small childrens groups or the infirm. The pavilion cost is currently £7.70 per hour. There are also Tennis Courts, which are free and can be used by the public.

Marsh Drive - Great Linford: Football Pitches (Cricket in Summer), and Tennis Courts. Contact Great Linford Tennis Club for details. We are currently taking Cricket bookings for the 2005 season, for details please contact the Parish Clerk on 01908 606613.

High Street - Great Linford: There is a Cricket Pitch and Pavilion. The pavilion has disabled access and is suitable for small childrens parties

and meetings (max capacity 50). Pavilion prices are currently £7.70 per hour, for cricket prices and availability for the 2005 Season, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01908 606613.

Allotments: We have two vacant disabled plots at Neath Hill (designed for wheelchair use). We also have two other plots which have just become available. The Hills Close, Great Linford site currently has one plot vacant. The allotments at Willen Park and Gifford Gate, Great Linford are currently full, however we do operate a waiting list and you are welcome to put down your name if you particularly want one of these sites. Costs vary according to the size of the plot, but average £10 per year. For further information please contact the Parish Clerk on 01908 606613.

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PHOTOS FROM GREAT LINFORD WATER

Another year - another success!

If you want to be part of the volunteer team that put this together for next year's festival then call **01908 605502** or visit **www.watersidefestival.co.uk!**



© Gerry Atkinson



© Gerry Atkinson

Great Linford Manor

Festival supported by

St. Andrew's Church

Great Linford Parish Council

FUN RUN 2004 RESULTS

Junior Boys (7 - 10 years)

Winner: Ben Montgomery

Junior Girls (7 - 10 years)

Winner: Emily Little

Junior Boys (11-13 years)

Winner: Stuart Dover

Special award given to Jack Evans, who ran main race at age of 10 and came second

Junior Girls (11-13 years)

Winner: Daisy Wooler

Youth Boys (14-17 years)

Winner: Joel Brown

Youth Girls (14-17 years)

Winner: Gemma Moore

Adult Men (18+)

Winner: Richard Schmidt

Adult Women (18+)

Winner: Alanah Perris

Family

(2 Adults, 2 Juniors aged 11-17)

Winner: The Parsler Family

Best Fancy Dress

Briony Parsler

and there were a couple of cracking ostriches courtesy of the Parsler family also!

WATERSIDE FESTIVAL 2004 • 18 - 20 JUNE



Companion Dog Show

Pedigree classes

Any Variety Puppy (6-12 mos)
Elkie Ferriging

Any Variety Junior (12-18 mos)
Bantha Clark

Any Variety Open
Freddie Walsh

Any Variety Veteran (over 7 years)
Digby Hawkes

Best in Show
Bantha Clark

Novelty classes

Dog with the waggiest tail
Gizmo Piper

Handsomest Dog
Woody Gawkrödger

Prettiest Bitch
China Bowman

Dog most like its owner
Monty Harris

Best in Show
Monty Harris



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YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Not sure who to talk to about your area? Here are the members of Great Linford Parish Council and their contact details.

Charles Allum (Downs Barn)	668115	Gill Hobson (Giffard Pk/Blakelands)	670609
Allan Pugh (Downhead/Willen Pk)	662441	Sue Williams (Conniburrow)	690337
Brian Morsley (Chair, Downhead/Willen Pk)	666054	Jenny Sharp (Parish Clerk)	217752
David Stabler (Neath Hill)	232025	Allan Wright (Downs Barn)	666926
David Lovesy (Pennyland/Bolbeck Pk)	605502	John Figg (Great Linford)	666916
Mike Williamson (Great Linford)	605664	Lin Shaw (Pennyland/Bolbeck Pk)	678563
Colin Tripp (Giffard Pk/Blakelands)	618304	George Byfield (Conniburrow)	604063

To contact the Parish Clerk, Jenny Sharp, please telephone 01908 606613,
email clerk@greatlinfordparish.co.uk or write to
10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes MK14 5JY.

PEARTREE POND - GREAT LINFORD LOCAL CENTRE

The above pond is owned by the Parish Council and the day to day maintenance is carried out by the Peartree Pond Association, a group of very willing volunteers. We have received a number of calls recently from people concerned about the condition of the pond, however to the untrained eye the condition of the water is no indication of the overall condition of the pond. Occasionally dead fish will be seen floating on the water, this is nature and does not, necessarily indicate a problem.



Fish such as carp, are bottom feeders and keep the water permanently cloudy by stirring up the sediment. This reduces light penetration, so preventing bottom rooted plants establishing. These type of plants are therefore not present to keep the water oxygenated, and the nutrients which could have fed them, go to feed algae instead, making the water even more cloudy.

Another major problem and probably the worst, is the feeding of bread to the fish and waterfowl. We would respectfully ask residents not to carry out this activity as it has a major impact on the condition of the pond. Last but certainly not least, please do not throw ANYTHING into the pond, every item that hits the water (whether it floats or sinks) has a major impact on the condition of the pond. This is your pond, please help us to keep in good condition.

ALLOTMENT SHOW RESULTS

On Sunday 29th August, the second Produce Show was held at the Cricket Pavilion in Great Linford by the Great Linford Allotment Association. This was a huge success, with entries almost double those of last year. Prize winners as follows:

Vegetable Section

Mr & Mrs Melton

Salad Section

Mr Stovold

Soft Fruit Section

Mr Vidler

Preserves Section

Mr Vidler

Home Baking Section

Mrs Tagg & Mrs Matthews
(joint winners)

Flower Section

Mr Stovold

Homemade Wine Section

Mr Sharp

Childrens Flower Display

Miss Bronwyn Tagg

Childrens Cake Decoration

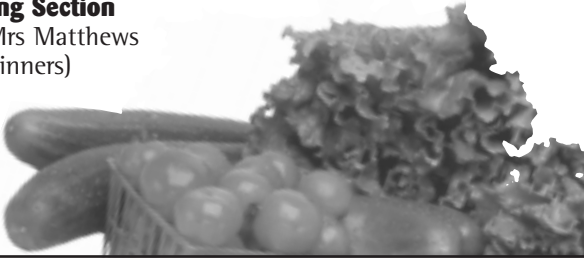
Miss Hannah Matthews

Best Kept Allotment

1st Prize – Mr James
(Hills Close Site)
2nd Prize – Mr Potton
(Neath Hill Site)

Overall Show Winner
(Most points from classes)

Mr & Mrs Melton
(Hills Close Site)



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NEW CHAIR FOR PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has a new Chair - Councillor Brian Morsley. He has been a Parish Councillor for three different Parishes for twenty three years, two of these in Milton Keynes, and one where he became Town Mayor in South Bedfordshire.

He was a Magistrate for many years, and has coupled his Parish Council membership with being a District Councillor in South Bedfordshire. He has sat on Milton Keynes Council for the last five years.



MARSH DRIVE SPORTS GROUND

The sports ground has football and cricket pitches which are used throughout the year. There are substantial costs in keeping these areas in prestige condition, are very high, we however love to see residents using these areas.

There are currently people using the pitches for inappropriate uses. If you are one of those persons, playing golf, riding motor cycles or using kites on wheeled trolleys please take note that the Parish Council will take any necessary action to stop this unauthorised use. These activities are causing huge amounts of damage to the ground.

Dog are also prohibited from the playing areas, please observe the signs.

The Street Where You Live...

**Clr David Stabler continues
to enlighten us on our
proud heritage...**

Cooper's Wharf was the name suggested by the Parish Council and chosen for the recently completed housing fronting Marsh Drive adjacent to the Grand Union Canal.

What perhaps you don't realise as you cross bridge 77 over the formerly named Grand Junction Canal is that the land on which the development stands was originally the commencement of a suggested canal linking Great Linford to Bedford.

The route of the canal was surveyed in 1793 and a Bill in Parliament received the Royal Assent on the 17th June 1814 authorising the construction of the short section to Newport Pagnell, which opened in 1817.

The estimate for this work was made in 1813 by Mr. B. Bevan. He calculated the cost to be £12,650, of which, £9,700 was subscribed; the shares were made of the value of £100 each, but half and quarters were allowed.

The canal from Newport to its opening into the Grand Junction Canal is only a mile and a quarter long, with a rise of 50 feet 9 inches, from Newport to the level of the Grand Junction, which was effected by seven locks of 7 feet 3 inches each.

The Bill stated "The conveniences afforded by this communication with the Grand Junction Canal in the transit of coal, agricultural produce, timber, deals, stone and groceries, are important to the town and neighbourhood of Newport Pagnell."¹

The Tonnage Rates were: "...for all Goods, Wares, Merchandise and Things 2 shillings a ton, for Coals and Coke 1 shilling and six pence a ton and for Manure six pence a ton."

The canal closed in 1864 and the Wolverton to Newport Pagnell railway, which was built over a major part of the former canal, opened for goods, cattle and parcels on 23rd July 1866. The ceremonial opening of the line for passengers was celebrated on the 2nd September 1867. The line was closed on the 5th September 1964.

There are still signs of the canal's existence. The entrance to the Newport Pagnell Canal was at Linford Wharf, alongside which there were the old wharf buildings recently occupied by Cooper's the agricultural machinery supplier. Hence the conjunction of the name for the new housing development "Cooper's Wharf."

There is an interpretation board beside the Grand Union adjacent bridge 77, briefly recording the history of the Newport Pagnell Canal and showing a circular walk where traces of the canal can be seen.

Following the footpath from the board the cottage by Lock 1 is still standing although the site of the lock chamber is now part of the front garden. However just beyond the cottage, the overgrown canal bed is clearly seen and holds water for a while after heavy rain.

The path [perhaps the towpath?] continues through a gate into the Giffard Park housing and follows beside the grassed-over depression, clearly showing the route of the canal up to the next lock. The site of the lock is now a children's play area and the road passing across the canal at what would originally have been bridge 4 is appropriately enough called "Boulter's Lock".²

¹ Priestley's *Navigable Rivers and Canals* by Joseph Priestley published in April 1831

² Jill Gourlay Bucks Canal Society 1996

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Want to advertise in the next GLPC News & Views?

Quarter Page 63.25mm x 91mm £30	Full Page 132.5mm x 187mm £90
Half Page 132.5mm x 91mm £50	

- 8,500 copies printed and distributed to every home in Great Linford Parish (Bolbeck Park, Conniburrow, Giffard Park, Blakelands, Pennyland, Great Linford, Downs Barn, Neath Hill, Downhead Park, Willen Park)
- Issue is current for three months (published quarterly)
- Adverts are placed amongst the articles, not just as an advertising supplement
- If you don't have an advert, we'll put it together from information and pictures you supply!
- To place your advert call Cllr David Lovesy on **07876 781500 / 01908 605502 / david@meerkatmedia.co.uk**

BOLBECKPARKCONNIBURROWGIFFARDPARKBLAKELANDS 1

M(onkey) K(ettle)

The Editor of local poetry magazine Monkey Kettle has just moved into the Parish - so we thought we'd tell you about it! Matthew Taylor writes:

Poetry, Writing, Arts & Culture in Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes' best and indeed only "poetry & stuff" magazine has been running since 1999, and continues to go from strength to strength. Mixing the best of local writing talent with established names from further afield, this small magazine has achieved cult status and is always on the lookout for new contributors. If you have poetry you wish to submit, then feel free - the magazine can be contacted by email at

monkeykettle@hotmail.com, or by post: Monkey Kettle, PO Box 4616, Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK12 6XZ. The mag also has a website at **www.monkeykettle.co.uk**

If you would like to buy copies of Monkey Kettle to see what all the fuss is about, then it can be purchased upstairs in Ottakars in Midsummer Place, CMK, or in Periplus Books, Stony Stratford - if you're a fan of contemporary poetry and irreverent local culture, it's well worth a look!

WATLING STREET

angel
to me, our love
is like the A5
(I mean, the old A5)
so we'll fire up Clive
and we'll drive

it's not the busiest road in town
but it swims in gold when the sun goes down
and it's straight
it's great
it doesn't deviate

for nearly two thousand years
it has existed
never twisted
ancient and timeless
and my roman' days
are over

we're on the grass verge
of something very special

from Fenny
to the High Street, Stony
i'll be yours
your one and truly



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