



Village of Linton Trust
Newsletter
November 2020



w: linton-volt.org.uk

t: 0752 1117 608

e: trustees@linton-volt.org.uk

post: volt postbox in the phonebox



Welcome to the VoLT Newsletter

Surprisingly after being in existence for over 5 years this is our first newsletter. Whilst it may be a strange time to be launching one, in some ways it is a good time to reflect how important our history and locality are and our links with the past. Our beautiful village will still be here, and needing help, long after the devastating effects of Covid.

Many of you may not have been here at the start of VoLT - or maybe not sure what it is all about - so we have extracted the purpose of the charity from the constitution. This helps provide a focus as to what we are about but it also imposes a constraint as to what can be done with any funds raised, however tempting it may be to be drawn away from them - especially now.

The trustees have recently had a very busy time reflecting upon these purposes, and how it fits within the matrix of village life. This newsletter serves as a reminder as to what we are about and to show the balance we draw between funding St Mary's for its future and grants benefitting the village as whole. We are a membership organisation (currently £5 per year) so we need members to not only give ideas and feedback but also to help shape what we do. It is not just about financial grants but also about providing practical help to both the historic church building and surrounding land, as well as the village. Please support us by either joining or at least subscribing to our newsletters.

Thank you from the trustees

Shaaron Arrowsmith, Clair Hodgson, Jeanette Normanton-Erry, Heather and Nigel Pealing

What is Volt?

The Village of Linton Trust was set up as a charity in 2015 to help share the responsibility for the care of the church building and its immediate surroundings with the wider community. VoLT is not involved with providing funding for any running costs for the church or any other organisation. It also helps preserve the heritage and appearance of the village as a whole.

- The primary purpose of the Village of Linton Trust (VoLT) is to provide financial and practical assistance to help conserve and maintain Linton church building and its grounds.
- In addition, VoLT will seek to help maintain the heritage and appearance of Linton village in ways that are compatible with the primary purpose.
- The charity (VoLT) will achieve its purpose by building a capital fund over the long term and by managing and administering funds in response to received requests.

Why should I join VoLT or subscribe to the newsletter?

Like most rural churches, Linton is struggling with a dwindling and ageing congregation who are no longer able to look after the church on their own. We must all consider what the implications would be if Linton church closed in the future - as happened to Brampton Abbots. Actively helping now both reduces the risk of this occurring in Linton and means we can secure our heritage for the future.

You can get involved by joining Village of Linton Trust, or subscribing to our email newsletter - see our website.

Litter picking

For a number of years VoLT has been involved with the collection of litter in the village. We are grateful to John Arrowsmith who has previously organised

Spring and Autumn litter picks. He now feels it is time for somebody else to help with this important function. If you are interested in helping with this task please get in touch.



VoLT Snowdrop Competition

Let's look forward to the first sign of spring and also help the Woodland Trust understand the impact of climate change on wildlife by collecting data to be added to their survey. Guess the date of the first snowdrop to bloom in the churchyard. Our independent assessor has been appointed.



Win a pot of snowdrops to either plant in your garden or share with somebody. Entries by phone or text 0752 1117 608 or email snowdrops@linton-volt.org.uk, visit linton-volt.org.uk - £1 per guess. Closing date 1st December 2020. Just post an envelope in the Volt postbox situated in the old phone box.

Helping Out

We are not just about fund raising but also about providing practical help to the church and broader village in ways which meet our purposes. This help could be mowing the church grounds and public spaces, helping with simple maintenance tasks around Linton, or helping with funding applications from other organisations. If you feel you would like to help in some way please contact any trustees or email trustees@linton-volt.org.uk.

Defibrillator

This was installed in the old phone box in 2016 and VoLT arranged a number of training sessions to help people understand how to use it should it ever be needed. Fortunately this has never happened but we still need to keep it charged and maintained. We are looking for somebody who can be registered as a keeper for the defibrillator and take responsibility for ensuring it is always ready in case of an emergency. You might also be interested in trying to improve awareness of how to use it and first line emergency care.



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Ebay

Love it or loath it ebay has its place. Many of us have things we intend to sell but don't get round to. For a limited time, VoLT is offering you the chance to sell your unwanted, but saleable items. We will photograph, list and package up your items in exchange for a percentage of the sale price. If you want to try this then phone or text 0752 1117 608 or email ebayselling@linton-volt.org.uk so we can talk to you about it.

Calendar 2021

We are putting together our new calendar for 2021 and this year we will be selling them for £3 each. This will feature 12 beautiful photographs of the village and surrounding views, taken by local residents, making an ideal gift. More details will be on the website (linton-volt.org.uk). Place your order by phoning or texting 0752 1117 608 or emailing calendars@linton-volt.org.uk or completing the form on the website.

Moving Forward

Churchyard Wall

One prominent and important feature of the village is the retaining wall running in front of St Mary's. This has been deteriorating over time and 2 structural surveys undertaken in the last 5 years now show a couple of areas requiring a full rebuild. This alone will cost a considerable amount of money but we also need to conserve the rest of the wall.

Done well it will be of benefit to the village as a whole - protecting the heritage and environment and making it safe for the foreseeable future. Volt are working with the PCC to investigate what the costs will be and how best to get this work completed - probably in

a phased way. The PCC have agreed to put forward a grant application. This appears to be a project that would benefit the wider community, protect the heritage and also provide assistance to the church.



Grants for Village Projects

The money raised by VoLT is distributed by the trustees. We now have a grant application procedure to ensure all applications for funding are considered fairly, fit within the purposes of the charity and will be for the benefit of the village as a whole.

St Mary's building and grounds are at the heart of the village and also of Volt's purpose. It is also important that the wider village can benefit too - as can be seen from past projects including church lighting, memorial cross, phone box and defibrillator as well as litter picking. We are keen to invite grant applications from the village as well as the PCC. If you have a request you think will be suitable, please contact the trustees and they will guide you through the process. Details are also on our website