

Dates for your diary:

October 27th – Quiz night – in hall

December 8th – 30th anniversary concert by the Linsdale Singers

December 22nd – St. Mary's Concert

Overleaf

Fundraising news

Substantial loss

Our vision

Did you know?

Lead smelting is thought to have started over 9000 years ago. The British Museum houses a small lead statuette from the temple of Osiris in Egypt dating back to c. 3800 B.C... Lead mines are known from several ancient civilisations and have been found in Athens, Sardinia and Carthage in North Africa. Lead is mentioned in the book of Exodus: Pharaoh's armies "sunk like lead in the swelling waves" as the parted Red Sea closed back on them. Early civilisations used lead for pottery glazes and put it to medical use. The word "plumber" comes from "plumbum" (Latin: lead) and shows the element's close association with piping and water systems. The price of lead has risen by 63% in 2007 due (according to the FT) to high demand in China for battery-powered electric bicycles.

Building the future in our community



Bad news and good news

Thieves struck in the dead of night in mid-July to remove nearly half of the lead on the new link. Unfortunately no witnesses were around on the night of Friday 6th July as most of the exposed lead on top of the link was ripped from the award-winning structure. A heartbreak for all who have worked so hard for this project.

Fortunately, we are not so easily put off and within a few days steps have been taken to rectify the situation. Our insurers, despite being hit by a large number of such claims in recent weeks as the international price of lead soars, seem ready to put matters to rights without delay. Even better news came that the local authority conservation officer is prepared to allow us to replace the lead with zinc. This is a metal which has virtually no scrap value.

Ironically, the original plan

was to cover the link roof with zinc rather than lead. Zinc is cheaper but more difficult to work, but at that stage the conservation officer was not prepared to sanction use of this material. With the threat of repeated visits from the thieves, we are pleased to report that good sense has now prevailed.



The link roof, laid bare once more

We thank the police for so helpfully issuing us with a crime number and urge any of our readers with connections in the scrap metal trade to be on the look-out for top

"A heartbreaking setback, but we are pleased that an excellent solution has been found" -

*Keith Saunders,
Project Co-ordinator*

quality lead which has clearly only recently been fitted and then removed.

Immediate measures have been put in place. New security lights have been fitted and when the scaffolding has been removed, the old lights will become effective again. We are investigating the provision of other security features which will deter and help bring justice those who might be tempted in future!

Roof finished but new windows delayed

We are pleased with progress of stage 2b of our project. With the roof on the hall complete, the scaffolding is ready to come down. The new "tin hats" (specially manufactured to replicate the old ventilation chimneys which were badly corroded). New lime mortar has made the front façade look lighter in colour and removed all the gaping holes between the

19th-century stones. The masons have done a tremendous job replacing a lot of eroded stones. Our builder, Stuart Tredgett has managed to sell off all the old roof tiles – nearly 11,000 of them – at £220 per thousand which helps reduce our overall costs by £2400.

We are now being held

up waiting the new windows to arrive. Visitors to the hall can already see how the window sills have been lowered to allow in more light. Factory re-organisation has caused this delay but we will be pressing for speedy delivery of the windows.

Linslade Hall Re-development project

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Events box office

To reserve tickets for any event listed on page 1, please contact Nick and Sandra Moore:

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.linslade-parish.org.uk>

Give as you spend

If you buy goods on the internet, your e-retailer will pay us a commission if you first visit

<http://www.buy.at/linsladeparish>

EBay Charity Auction

Auction off your unwanted items at EBay and donate to the project:

st_barnabuzz@yahoo.co.uk

Latest fundraising news

A huge variety of fundraising events have helped move our project along since the June newsletter. On June 9th, the concert by the **Luton Road Band and the Dunstable Singers** concert raised a marvellous **£330** – and all from voluntary donations. On July 1st, it was a huge pleasure to welcome Bedfordshire Music to St. Barnabas Church and a “**Youth Showcase**” concert by the young people of the town. Performances from the Southcott Singers and the south Bedfordshire Youth Voices, both conducted by Mrs Susan Cox, had the



Youth Voices in concert

packed audience enraptured. We were also pleased to welcome the

choir of the College Hippolyte Remy from our twin town, Coulommiers. Performances by chamber groups, jazz groups and the local youth jazz band concluded a wonderful afternoon that raised over **£150**. a particular vote of thanks go to Robert and Mary Johnson and their band of helpers for organising refreshments on this afternoon and for the dog club show in the park the following Sunday. This raised **£112** for the fund.



Tony, Brenda and Eileen

Tony and Brenda Pantling were back on July 14th for a Bastille Day special **winetasting evening**. The wine and a light supper were enjoyed by about 50 people and the event made **£498** (before

costs are deducted) a tremendous. Despite the terrible weather, the **strawberry teas** at St. Mary's Church in Old Linslade made an amazing **£350**.

A huge thank you to the Pantlings, the Luton Road Band, Chris Jones of Bedfordshire Music, the Friends of St. Mary's Church and all who have helped us raise so much money this summer.

Please note the date of our next event: the **quiz evening on October 27th**.



Strawberry teas at St. Mary's: always a popular event

Substantial loss by church slimmers

Mary and Robert Johnson have raised **£390** by **slimming** for over a year. We congratulate them both for their wonderful efforts – they join our

slimming champion, Vernon Smith, whose solo slimathon last year left him half the man he was, and the fund several £thousands richer!

Our Vision: putting Community at the heart of all we do

St. Barnabas church is looking to put Community at the heart of all its work. Our aims are to:

- Foster activities that will reduce social isolation
- Offer an affordable, accessible, social meeting place
- Nurture a community spirit and to be a

focus for community pride

- Be an economically viable but non-profit-making facility

Our project will provide for the complete rebuilding of the hall including:

- New link between church and hall with disabled access and disabled toilet (stage

1 – complete)

- new kitchen, bar and offices (stage 2a)
- new roof covering and repaired stonework (stage 2b)
- completely refurbished interior (stage 2c)
- new extension with counseling and conference facilities (stage 3)

“St Barnabas Parish Hall seeks to become the centre of the community of Linslade and a resource for the wider area of Leighton-Linslade.”