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FECA IN ACTION

It has been a busy year for the Fen Edge Community Association (FECA). I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee for all their work over the past twelve months. Our first priority has been to maintain momentum in terms of membership, grant-making, revenue-raising and activities.

At this time last year, our membership was 37 groups; it is now 48. Our grant making increased from £3,116 in 2015/16 to £4,350 in 2016/17. We have had some great successes in terms of enabling community participation in activities, helping organisations promote their events, enabling the purchase of equipment and resources.

The main source of funds in 2016 was the Fen Edge News (FEN) which has gone from strength to strength under the stewardship of Wendy Dear.

Wendy has decided that the previous issue of the FEN was to be her last and she has stepped down as Editor. She has done a fantastic job over the past four years and her enthusiasm will be sorely missed. It goes without saying that we are looking for a new Editor – please get in touch if you are interested.

Rosalie Dunnico also stepped down as Secretary during the year and the Committee expressed their thanks and appreciation for the great support Rosalie has given to FECA over many years.

2017 is a Fen Edge Festival (FEF) year and that always dominates the agenda. The Festival Committee is working very well and is on track to deliver another spectacular event. I would like to thank them all for their efforts so far!

Looking forward to the rest of 2017, there are a number of priorities.

Firstly, we would like to continue to expand membership and our grant-making as we do have the resources to do more. We are also building a lot of experience in tapping into funding from other sources that we would like to share with FECA members.

Secondly, we would also like to expand the activities that we get involved in. We would like to do more in all of the Fen Edge villages.

Thank you for all your support over the last year.

Neil Gough

Chair@fenedge.co.uk

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FEN EDGE EVENTS DIARY

What's on and when in the villages

JUNE

9th Cottenham Toy Library Pre-School Soft Play Session, British Legion Hall 9:15 – 10:45am

10th WATERBEACH FEAST

10th Quiz Night, All Saints Church Hall, Cottenham 7:30pm (in aid of the Church refurbishment appeal)

14th Cottenham WI – British Comedy Greats 7:30pm CVC

18th Cottenham Gardeners' Club – Garden Party for members at a Cottenham member's garden (see p19)

19th Family History drop in session – Cottenham Library (see p7)

22nd – 25th FEN EDGE FESTIVAL, Cottenham

24th SKYLARK – 4-piece group popular music drawn from the inter-war years with some folk music, tangos and bossa nova. All Saints Church Hall, Cottenham, 7.30pm. Free concert. Donations in aid of All Saints Church Refurbishment. Light refreshments available.

24th Landbeach Society lunch, 47 High St., Landbeach

29th – 1st July WILLINGHAM BEER FESTIVAL

30th Cottenham Gardeners' Club talk – 'Peckover House and Garden' Veronica Bennett NT Volunteer (see p19)

JULY

7th Cottenham Toy Library Pre-School Soft Play Session, British Legion Hall 9:15 – 10:45am

8th Rampton Summer Fayre (see p29)

8th Cottenham Village Litter Pick, 2-5pm organised by Sustainable Cottenham, chris.ward@increment.co.uk

9th Fen Gallop, Willingham

12th Cottenham WI – Garden Party 123 High Street, Cottenham 6.30pm

13th Cottenham Primary School Summer Fair, 5-7pm

14th Cottenham Toy Library Teddy Bears Picnic

15th Fen Edge Orchestra Concert for Summer, All Saints Church, Cottenham, 7:30pm (in aid of appeal)

15th/16th Ramparts summer exhibition, Rampton Village Hall (see p29)

16th Junior Prime Brass, All Saints Church, Cottenham, 3:00pm (in aid of Church appeal)

17th Family History drop in session – Cottenham Library (see p7)

18th Cottenham Gardeners' Club – visit to Strictly Daylilies Nursery 5:30pm (see p19)

24th–28th Cottenham Summer School, CVC

AUGUST

6th Cottenham Gardeners' Club – Coach trip to RHS Hyde Hall Flower Festival – £20 for Gardening club and RHS members, £22 for others (see p19)

6th Waterbeach Dog Show – Recreation Ground

9th Cottenham WI – Coffee Morning, Cottenham Club 10am – 12:00pm

11th Cottenham Gardeners' Club – Evening Drinks Party for members at the Somersham garden of Colin Ward (see p19)

21st Family History drop in session – Cottenham Library (see p7)

26th Pond Dipping with Friends of Worts Meadow, Landbeach 2pm (see p21)

SEPTEMBER

8th Cottenham Village Society AGM (see p7)

8th Cambridgeshire Bird Club: *Research on the Pied Flycatcher* by Malcolm Burgess, CVC 8pm

13th Cottenham WI – Craft Evening: Learn a new skill CVC 7:30pm

16th Rampton Charity Horse Show (see p29)

19th WEA Cottenham – Course: *Russians and Russian Culture through Witness' Eyes*. Tutor: Marina Burrell. 10 weekly sessions of 1 1/2 hours. 10:15am Royal British Legion Hall, 121 High St, Cottenham, CB24 8SD Course Fee: £54.00 – Contact: Liz Milway 01954 250039

29th Cottenham Gardeners' Club talk – *Shrubs for Winter Interest* by Simon and Jay McWilliams, Hedgehog Nursery, Risby, followed by a plant sale (see p19)

OCTOBER

7th/8th WILLINGHAM FEAST (see p29)

11th Cottenham WI – David Parr House by Tamsin Wimhurst CVC 7:30pm

13th Cottenham Ploughing Society – Annual Ploughing match at Oakington Road, Cottenham. Everybody welcome. For details contact psmith134@btinternet.com

13th Cottenham Village Society – Mike Muncaster talk on 'Quackery' (see p7)

13th Cambridgeshire Bird Club: *Giving Wildlife the Edge on Fenland drains* by Cliff Carson, CVC 8pm

16th Family History drop in session – Cottenham Library (see p7)

18th Landbeach Society talk: *The Muse of Newmarket – theatre and Charles II*. John Sutton

21st QUICKSILVER at Rampton Village Hall (see p29)

27th Cottenham Gardeners' Club talk – *The Secret History of Apples and Orchards* by Joanna Crosby, Food Historian and Founder Member of the Trumpington Community Orchard Project (see p19)

Due to space limitations, it has not been possible to include the Village Directories in this issue but you will find contact details for the Clubs, Groups and Societies on our website www.fenedge.co.uk



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM VILLAGE SOCIETY

The Village Society welcomes people who are interested in the history and character of the village and its surroundings. We visit historic features locally and further afield, have a series of lectures and take part in community events. We have been looking at Cottenham in the last 2 years, touring parts of the village viewing some of the older houses and hearing about their past inhabitants. Everyone is welcome to our meetings, there is a small charge if you are not a member.

We meet at All Saints Church Hall, High Street, Cottenham at 7.45 pm.

Forthcoming meetings are:

8th September AGM

13th October – Mike Muncaster talking about 'Quackery'

Glynis Pilbeam Secretary: cottvillsoc@gmail.com
www.cottenhamvillagesociety.ukfamilies.com

COTTENHAM LIBRARY NEWS

Taking place in your library – 'The Summer Reading Challenge' for the summer holidays 2017 is called **Animal Agents**. It is open to children aged 4-11 years. Signing up takes place a week before the summer holidays. The children read 6 books, one for each week of the holidays. They tell staff about each book and get stickers, which go on an illustrated recording chart, each time they come.

If you are stuck with your **Family History Research** there are drop in help sessions on the third Monday of each month from 7-9pm on 19 June, 17 July, 21 August and 16th October.

Do you need to renew or apply for a

Concessionary Bus Pass? You can renew up to 6 weeks before the expiry date. The application now has to be filled in online. You will need an electronic passport type photo in JPG format or a picture we can scan and your current bus pass. Further details need to be sent if you have moved house since your last bus pass or if your pass was issued under the disability criteria. For new bus passes more details need to be sent electronically. The library can assist you with all this if you are not experienced with the internet. Please come in and talk to us.

COTTENHAM THEATRE WORKSHOP CELEBRATING OUR 40TH YEAR

2017 is a special year for CTW as we celebrate our 40th anniversary! As usual, our calendar is incredibly full. We've just performed our rendition of *The Vicar of Dibley* which went down a storm at Cottenham Village College and was very well received. Julie Petrucci, writing on behalf of 'Combinations', stated that "An excellent cast expertly directed by Gloria Milne made a wonderful job of bringing the well-known Dibley characters to life", which resulted in "an excellent evening, full of talent, laughter and bonhomie". Thanks for the kind words Julie!

Coming up, on Saturday 24th June, we'll be at the Fen Edge Festival in Cottenham, performing a special medley of our 'greatest hits' from our productions over the years. We'd love to see as many of you as possible – just come to the large marquee to enjoy the live entertainment.

Later in the year, we will be performing our usual festive production, which will be *Aladdin* (with a twist!). Directed by long-standing member Kerry O'Connell, this show promises to bring all the usual laughs and scenarios, with a few special changes... want to know what they are? Well, you had better come along and find out! Read-throughs will be at Cottenham Village College on the 30th June (7.30pm) and auditions will follow on the 4th July (time TBC). The performances themselves will be held at the College on 29th November – 2nd December 2017. Keep an eye on our website for more details.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CottenhamCTW to stay up-to-date with all things CTW! We're always eager to have new people join us, whether it be acting, helping backstage or in front of house, everyone's skills can be put to good use. For more information, or to be involved with the Fen Edge Festival performance, please email: cottenhamtheatre@gmail.com

Ben Shimmens

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

WHIRL & TWIRL DANCE CLUB

Thank you to all who made our recent Open Day a success – the dancers who travelled miles, leaflet producers and distributors, Jane and her team in the coffee shop, Sue on the mic and all those who came to watch. We managed to raise our profile in the community and attract some promising new dancers. If you missed it, why not pop along to one of our club nights and see what it's all about, you would be very welcome. We dance at the Community Centre in Cottenham on Wednesdays at 7pm.

COTTENHAM CRICKET CLUB

By the time you are reading this, Cottenham CC, one of the oldest in the county, will be well and truly into its 165th summer! It's a history of which we are very proud. Our new, young 1st XI will be battling away in the CCA Senior League and our 2nd team in the CCA Junior League. At the same time, our under-11 and under-13 teams will be almost halfway through their summer term season. Hopefully they will all be acquitting themselves well. In addition our new ECB grassroots All Stars

Cricket programme for 5-8 year old boys and girls will just be underway.

New players are very welcome for all the above, even though the season is well under way, so do please get in touch if you, or someone you know, might be interested in joining any of our teams.

Dave Partridge (01954 203210)

ADULT LEARNING AT COTTENHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

Our Autumn programme will be available in early July 2017. Look out for our A4 colour prospectus coming through your door in July showing the full Autumn programme, starting 18th September. You will also find everything you need to know on our website: community.cvcweb.net

We will be offering our usual popular courses together with some great new ideas. Remember, as well as evening classes we also offer Saturday Workshops on 8 Saturdays during the year.

Please get in touch with any questions or course bookings: Tel: 01954 288751 or Email: community@cvcweb.net

NEW ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE CHARITY SHOP WILL BE COMMUNITY HUB

Arthur Rank Hospice opened its fourth charity shop in Cottenham on 3rd May. The store is based in what was the old Post Office at 230 High Street, Cottenham CB24 8RZ.

The Hospice is aiming to recruit at least fifty new volunteers to support the day to day running of the shop. To contribute in this way, volunteers need only offer 3-4 hours of their time once per week or fortnight, although those wishing to offer more than this are welcome to do so.

To find out more about volunteering in the new shop please call Vipra for an informal chat on 01223 675872, email volunteer@arhc.org.uk or visit arhc.org.uk/volunteeringintheshop

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

VILLAGE SOFT-PLAY SESSIONS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Cottenham Toy Library has been running pre-school soft play sessions in the village for just over a year now! Thanks to everyone who's supported this wonderful new facility and has enjoyed coming along to our sessions at the British Legion Hall where there's fun equipment for children to explore, and a tea or fresh coffee for parents and carers!

We aim to run the sessions twice a month, on Friday mornings. However we are very low on volunteers at the moment, and may have to cancel some sessions unless we get more help! Just an hour a month would be amazing - you can either help serve refreshments, or keep an eye on equipment in the hall and help with packing up (which can easily be done if you are coming along with your children anyway). Sessions are £2 per child, £3 per family and £1 for under 1's. Annual membership is £5, or summer term membership just £2.50. Our summer dates are below, but it's best to check our Facebook page for any updates!

We also have a great selection of toys that can be hired for parties and events - including ride-ons, walkers, scooters, see-saws, slides and a small bouncy castle! To book, get in touch via Facebook or at info@cottenhamtoylibrary.co.uk

Dates for your diary – don't miss out!

Make sure to put Friday 23rd June in your diary! As part of the Fen Edge Festival, the Toy Library will be holding a Preschool Fun Day on the Green. With a special guest visit from Mr Marvel, yoga-inspired fun with Tatty Bumpkin, Rat-a-Tat music session, tractor rides, a baby area, face-painting, refreshments and more – it's going to be a blast! £5 a family, from 10am - 2pm. Just bring a picnic... and plenty of energy! We'll also be holding our annual Teddy Bear's Picnic on Friday 14th July – with splashy water fun, teddy bear hunt, face-painting and lots more. Details will be confirmed soon. Upcoming sessions – see Fen Edge Events Diary p5. Autumn sessions will start in September.

ROBERT SMITH

It was with great sadness that we heard about the death of Robert Smith. He was always ready to help others and organise charitable events for them, including FECA tea dances. His 'put put' diesel tractor and trailer has been a feature of the Yesteryear Road Run (that usually supported MAGPAS), Fen Edge Village proceedings and FECA organised events for many years. He was a great friend of FECA and his enthusiastic support of the Fen Edge Festival brought joy to children and adults alike. We, and the whole area, will miss him.

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COTTENHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE DAY BY DAY

(all activities in main hall unless marked 'studio' or 'coffee shop')

MONDAY

Mucky Pups 9.30-10.30 and 11.15 to 12.15, contact hello@muckypupscambridge.co.uk; Adult ballet 11-12 (studio), contact community@cvcweb.net; 4th Dimension Dance classes 4pm and 5pm info@4d-dance.co.uk; Zumba 7-8pm, contact Jo Kinser jo@jjkdancin.com; BarreConcept (taking a break for maternity at the moment) 6.30-7.30pm and 7.30-8.30pm (studio), contact workout140@outlook.com;

TUESDAY

Yoga 10-11.30am denise@sibleymooreyoga.co.uk; Pilates Entry (for beginners) 10.15-11.15 (studio); Pilates Plus (intermediate) 11.30-12.30 (studio); Teen Pilates (may re-start if sufficient interest) 3.20-4.05 (studio); all Pilates classes are pay as you go, Miranda de Vries mitimewellbeing@gmail.com; Discussion group (not at the moment, may re-start) fortnightly 7.30-9pm (coffee shop) details from cottenham.discussiongroup@gmail.com; Fitsteps for adults 8.15-9.15pm julia@jcfit.co.uk

WEDNESDAY

Little Humbugs (singing and music for babies and toddlers) 10.30-11.30am, £2.50 littlehumbugs@gmail.com; BarreConcept (taking a break for maternity at the moment) 7-8 and 8-9pm (studio), contact workout140@outlook.com; Whirl and Twirl 7-10pm matthew.baldry@googlemail.com; CCC Knitting group in coffee shop from 10am; just come along and enjoy helping others; Photography club 1st Wed of month at 7pm in coffee shop Photoclub@virginmedia.com

THURSDAY

Ready Steady Play (Early Years) 10-11am MLam@hilton.cambs.sch.uk; Adult ballet (term time in studio) 10-11am and 11-12 reserve a place community@cvcweb.net; Zumba 6-7pm, contact Jo Kinser jo@jjkdancin.com;

Pilates for strength (studio) 6.45-7.45pm; Mixed Ability Pilates Explore 7.45-8.45pm (studio). All Pilates/Stretchercise queries to mitimewellbeing@gmail.com; Pregnancy yoga, 7.30-9pm contact Lisa at szramowski.lisa@gmail.com

Cambs Hearing Help 2-4pm every 2nd Thursday of month. www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk; Slimming World (coffee shop) 7-9pm v.mcauleyccles@gmail.com

FRIDAY

Yoga (studio) short terms only 10-11.30am, wiltrud.jackson@yahoo.co.uk; Mixed Ability Pilates Explore 10-11am (time may change to 15 mins earlier); FlexAware (studio) 11.35am-12.35pm; All Pilates/FlexAware queries to mitimewellbeing@gmail.com;

SATURDAY

4th Dimension Dance classes for children 2pm and 3pm, info@4d-dance.co.uk

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

For Colour Awareness workshops, Defibrillator and First Aid training, bookings mitimewellbeing@gmail.com; Dads Play 10.30-11.30 (2nd Saturday of month); Arts Night in coffee shop, 7.30-9.30pm (2nd and 4th Sundays); The Roost (in coffee shop and main hall 3rd Sunday) 3-4.30pm; Community Cinema usually 1st Sunday of the month 7.30pm and sometimes, for families, 2.30pm. Information from website: www.revcoffee.net or <https://www.facebook.com/CottenhamCommunityCinema> or email simon.oliver@cantab.net

FEN EDGE FESTIVAL

CCC is delighted to be hosting some of the events from Thursday 22 to Sunday 25 June – see separate list in this issue of all FEF events.

NEW COMMUNITY ACTIVITY?

Do you have an idea for a community activity that needs access to a room or hall but can't get off the ground because of uncertainty over income? CCC have space available a lot of the time and while we charge for using these facilities, we encourage community activities. Find out more - Mike Smith on smithmichaelstanley@hotmail.com or 01954 251915

Room Hire Three rooms (main hall, studio, coffee shop) for new activities or parties. Full food catering and/or a bar can be provided. The hall is also great to use for training or meetings. Full entertainment licence etc held. See the website www.cottenhamcc.org or email smithmichaelstanley@hotmail.com

COFFEE SHOP

Come in and enjoy a fantastic scone, cake or lunch.

Opening times: 10am-4.30pm Monday; 10am-2pm Tuesday to Saturday (except bank holidays, Christmas and late August).

The coffee shop will close for food and drinks for the

Summer break at 2pm on Saturday 19 August 2017 and Re-open at 10am on Monday 4 September 2017.

Volunteers wanted. Become part of the team at the coffee shop, weekly or less regular volunteers welcomed. For more information contact jane@hackshaw.co.uk or phone 01954 202109 during opening hours. Become a member of CCC and help ensure that this popular community centre continues to be a major focus of Fen Edge life or consider becoming a trustee. <http://www.cottenhamcc.org/membership/> www.cottenhamcc.org Charity Number 1128604

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COTTENHAM 7K FUN RUN 2017

Once again, Cottenham 7K Fun Run provided a great morning out for athletes and spectators alike. The proud tradition, started nearly 30 years ago by Jasper Kay, continues to flourish.

This year, Saturday 6th May was cold and overcast. Perfect for runners, a bit challenging for the hardy market stalls, including Carlo's Ices, attractively circled around the pond.

Fun Run Headquarters was up and 'running' at 0600.

Course to check, traffic signage to erect, kilometre markers to position. Then back to the Village College for the opening of race registration at 9am. This year, for the first time, we went digital, with internet pre-registration, a feature that will grow in future years.

First race was the mini Fun Run; one lap around the College playing field, a distance of approximately one mile. A total of 66 children participated, each with a race medal won for their fantastic achievement.

The main 7 Km race commenced at 10.45am, with the race starting at the very top end of the College playing fields. A total of 129 runners competed, 47 of those school children.

The race comprises a measured seven kilometres, part on road, part cross country, taking a circular route around the village. First home was Mr Finn Johnson, with a superb time

of 24 minutes, 40 seconds. First lady was Mara Johnson, with another great time of 29 minutes, 43 seconds. The medal ceremony provided just reward for the first three places to all race categories. All medal winners were warmly congratulated by the appreciative crowd. And that's it. Pack it all up, put it all away, and eagerly await next year! Once again, we are indebted to Malary Ltd waste recycling solutions for their ever generous support and sponsorship as well as the donations of race entrants and market stalls.

This year all monies received, after costs, totalled £850 and have been donated to Twinkle Star Children's Trust. The Trust's primary aims are to support local children's projects, enrich the lives and educational experiences of children from disadvantaged and challenging backgrounds. Twinkle Star's wider aims include raising children's awareness of nature, educating them in the preservation of the environment for their futures. Full results and a list of podium places are available on the FECA website www.fenedge.co.uk and on social media via facebook.com/cottenham7K or twitter.com/cottenhamfunrun



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TWINKLE STAR CHILDREN'S TRUST

Twinkle Star Children's Trust primary aims are to support local children's projects and enrich the lives and educational experience of children from disadvantaged and challenging backgrounds.

Twinkle Star's wider aims include raising children's awareness of nature and educating them in the preservation of the environment for their futures. The Trust was established in memory of Isaac Chapman, who died in 2012 aged 4. Since then the charity has grown but remains nimble and able to react to the needs of the local community and provide support where required to ensure local children all enjoy the same advantages.

Here are a few of many who have been lucky enough to benefit - We purchased the climbing frame for Cottenham recreation ground in memory of Isaac as part of the refurbishment.

Twinkle Star has teamed up with the Salvation Army and Cottenham Charities for the last few years to provide Christmas presents for disadvantaged children, who may not have got a present on Christmas morning.

A child with learning disabilities was funded to attend a preschool; otherwise he may not have been able to attend.

We have donated funds to the local primary school for their garden, which is of benefit to approximately 600 children. Pupil premium funded children are able to spend extra time outdoors learning about nature and the environment. We have also helped fund the Hill Top school trip for children who may otherwise not have been able to go.

A sensory room for Ladybird Pre-school was funded by Twinkle Star. This was important because the room benefits all the children who attend the Pre School but mostly those with some learning difficulties.

Twinkle Star has been supportive of a local children's hospice, helping them purchase a Christmas tree and decorations; funding a garden project so the children have space outside and an adapted car so they can enjoy



FECA Trustee Eileen Wilson and Junior Fun Run race organiser Rebecca Cole present a cheque for £850, raised by the Cottenham Fun Run, to Dawn Hales and supporters of Twinkle Star Children's Trust

trips away from the home.

There are many others who have and will continue to benefit from Twinkle Star Children's Trust, the volunteers who work extremely hard and all the kind donations we receive means we can continue to help children in Isaac's memory.

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and donations. We have been working hard for the last 5 years and we will continue to work as hard as we can to enrich the lives of many other children, looking farther afield if we are able. Over the years, many of our volunteers have moved on as their children have grown and they have returned to work and we are always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested in being involved or supporting the charity, or know of a project we can help with, you can find us on Facebook or email twinklestartchildren@yahoo.co.uk



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POTS, TUBS AND BASKETS

By the time that you read this, the current cold spell will be over, you will have planted up at least one item from the headline, and be relaxing outside with a glass of something nice, admiring the fruit of your labours. Probably.

If not, it's not too late to fill that empty pot or hang up last year's basket that you've just found. Be adventurous. What about a basket with some tumbling tomatoes? Have a look around the garden centre and find three perennial plants that go together in colour and texture. Get one tallish one and a couple of medium or small ones. Ignore whatever it says about their eventual size, and put them in a pot. Enjoy your original pot, and plant the plants in your border for next year. Some of you may know of Three Sister companion planting, where you plant sweetcorn with climbing French beans round it and squashes at the base. A variant for a large pot would be sweetcorn in the centre, four bean plants round it sown a couple of weeks after the corn, and a small courgette plant sown round the base 2 weeks after that. Something like courgette F1 patio Star might do it, but even so, that has a spread of around a couple of feet, so don't be too optimistic with your planting.

By now, the plants will have used all of the nutrients in the compost, and may be starting to look a little tired. So, how do we look after them?

- **Planting medium:** If you are planting a basket or any tub with bedding plants, use a good general purpose compost. Add water retaining gel and slow release fertiliser. If you're planting something that will stand outside on a permanent basis, use John Innes number 2 compost. It's soil based, heavier than compost, and retains water well. I tend to mix John Innes and potting compost for gross feeders like bananas.
- **Feed:** All plants benefit from being fed. If you've put them into an artificial environment, they will be relying on you to provide the nutrients. Even if you've used dedicated tub and basket compost, your plants will benefit from a feed. You can add a slow release fertiliser at the start of the season, but adding a liquid feed when watering is just as effective. Use a seaweed based general fertiliser, or one for feeding tomatoes. Both encourage flowering. Make sure that you feed once a week for best results, especially in mid season.
- **Watering:** Always a problem area. If you put up a basket on a south facing wall in blistering sun, it will want a drink twice a day. Plants use copious amounts of water when actively growing, so make sure that you water them regularly. Make it a user friendly job. Use a lance on a hosepipe rather than lugging a can around. You can get an attachment to mix feed as you water, or console

yourself that you only have to feed once a week! A tip – Try and group pots together. It makes it easier to water for the lucky person looking after your stuff while you're on holiday.

- **Maintenance:** Depending on what you put in them, hanging baskets need little hands on attention. If you're putting them up more than head high, don't put plants in that need dead heading. Save them for pots and tubs. Occasionally in pots and tubs, the plants will benefit from a little cutting back (and dead heading). Get into the habit of having a wander round your garden with a largish pair of scissors. Pottering can be a very therapeutic activity.

- **Pests:** Many and various are these. The worst suspects are, in no particular order.

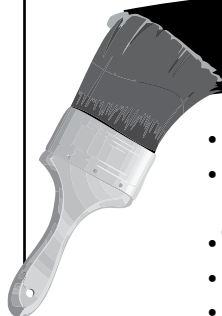
Slugs and snails – Three ways to deal with them – pick them off (yuk), beer traps (waste of beer), or hedgehog friendly slug pellets.

Aphids – Blast them off with water, washing up liquid or bee and ladybird friendly insecticide, if you can find it.

By far the biggest problem with pots and tubs is the vine weevil. The adults will nibble leaves, but it's the grubs that kill the plant. You get no warning of trouble until the sudden collapse of the plant, and on investigation you will find that its roots have been almost totally eaten away by what appear to be large and fat maggots. At the first sign of trouble, you can rescue plants by using a dedicated vine weevil killer. At present, there is only one on the market, and it is a tad expensive, but does work. Note: it clearly says that it kills vine weevils. If it doesn't say that on the label, it doesn't kill them, whatever the product calls itself!

If you generally follow the path that I've laid out, you should be rewarded by having attractive plant displays in your garden. For some people, these represent the only garden that they have, and they have become ingenious about what can be grown in a pot. If the idea of gardening in small containers appeals, there are plenty of books out there with good ideas. But, there is also a wealth of advice and experience around you. Learn to love your local gardening club. Almost everything that I've related to you has come from various speakers at our club in Cottenham. I seem to have joined the speaker circuit of late, and it's been a joy and a delight to share what knowledge I have with other people. So, look up the contact for your local club and go for a visit. After all, they're gardeners, just like you and me.

Ken Ellis is a member of Cottenham Gardeners' Club. Contact Sarah Dumont (01954 260482) for details of their meetings.



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FECA IN LANDBEACH

NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

One of the earlier books written by the well-known author Bill Bryson was "A Walk in the Woods", where he describes his attempt to walk the Appalachian trail in eastern USA. In this amusing travelogue, he tells how he was terrified of meeting a bear but also how calming and inspirational the landscape around him was. You are unlikely to meet a bear on a walk in the woods through Bourne Wood, Landbeach (Bill didn't meet one either) but at this time of year you might well see a diminutive Muntjac deer slipping away between the trees. Their delicate footprints are often visible in muddy patches along the edges of the trails. Originally from China, escapes from Woburn Park and other places in midland counties in the early 20th century, have led to the establishment of thriving feral populations in south and central England. A visit to the little nature reserve adjacent to Cambridge Research Park is another place to see them, and perhaps to hear the soft purring call of a Turtle Dove. Only slightly larger than a Blackbird, this species is now on the Red List of conservation concern. It has been seen and heard in Worts Meadow, Landbeach in recent years but not yet this year.

We are always happy to receive records of wildlife from in and around Worts Meadow and Bourne Wood. There is a waterproof recording sheet hanging from the entrance gate into the wood or you can join our Facebook group or use the contact details shown. Two white egrets (Little Egret) were recorded last month. This is a recent colonist in the UK and they are now relatively common in East Anglia. We would love to know what you have seen!

On our amphibian walk around Worts Meadow in March, led by Froglife, the nationally rare Great Crested Newt was found in abundance in Half Moon pond near the edge of Bourne Wood but not in the other ponds. Friends of Worts Meadow (FOWM) are now working with Froglife and with English Heritage (Worts Meadow is a Scheduled Monument) and County Farms to improve the ponds within the nature reserve to make them better homes for amphibians. Our next public nature event is Pond Dipping on August 26th at 2pm – all welcome.

FRIENDS OF WORTS MEADOW

FOWM are a constituted group of volunteers that help with the practical management of the nature reserve. It is free to join. Our open events provide the chance to learn about, and enjoy the wildlife of the site and help with recording. For more information Contact Frances Dipper on 01223 861836, frances.dipper@sustenergy.co.uk or see our Facebook page Friends of Worts Meadow.

Come play with us at BUSYTOTS!

Busytots is a not-for profit baby and toddler group, based in Landbeach Village Hall, entirely run by volunteers. Every Wednesday kids can get hands-on with a craft activity or messy play, toys and a sing along at most sessions. Snacks are included for kids, but perhaps more importantly cake and tea for grown-ups. We've enjoyed some brilliant sessions so far this year. Cornflakes and dinosaurs sensory play went down especially well with the toddlers and of course we all enjoyed the mini Easter egg hunt!

Busytots is currently looking for a volunteer to join our small, but friendly team. What sort of things does volunteering at Busytots involve? As a Snack Volunteer, you help prepare simple snacks for the children and tea & coffee for their parents & carers. 10.30-11.45am roughly once a month on a Wednesday. If you'd like to find out more contact Gemma on 07986 717958 or email busytots1@hotmail.co.uk

Busytots is open every Wednesday from 10am till 12 noon and everyone is welcome. We're a not for profit group, but ask for a small entry fee to help cover our hall rent and cost of snacks etc. £1.50 Single child families, plus 50p per additional child.

It's a great way for parents and carers to meet new people, and relax with a cuppa, in a place with lots to keep their little ones entertained. We're even open during the school holidays.

Find us at facebook.com/LandbeachBusytots or visit www.busytots.weebly.com

Sowing the seed for the TITHE BARN'S future

Beach Babies' pre-schoolers visited the Tithe Barn, in Landbeach, this spring and helped Alan Shipp, Tithe Barn Trust Trustee and retired Farmer, sow some wheat seed. They plan to return to the barn in the summer and help harvest and thresh the crop.

The Tithe Barn reflects the agricultural heritage of the Fen edge villages and is an important part of our local community history. Tithe Barns hint at a different side of history, not just the story of the wealthy. The Tithe

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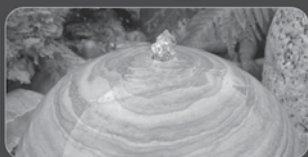


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FECA IN LANDBEACH Continued

Barn would have been used to store taxes, a tenth of all crops to the church, the contributions being stacked in the barn for winter threshing and storage. The Tithe Barn Trust is a small charity and volunteer not-for profit group aiming to save and sympathetically restore the Grade II Listed Tithe Barn, in Landbeach, for community use.

Gemma O'Shea, Tithe Barn Trust Chair, says "We've just submitted a major grant application for almost £400k. We're keeping our fingers crossed, but the more pledges and donations we receive from the community, the more likely our grant applications will be successful and the dream of restoring the Tithe Barn will be realised. Through our project we plan to not only save and sensitively restore the unique and rare Tithe Barn, but bring new life to this under-used historic building. We aim to open the barn to a wider audience and tell its story. If successful with our fundraising quest we will improve the access track so that the barn is accessible for all, including those with disabilities. The project also incorporates plans to provide basic facilities to the barn (such as toilets, power and water supply) sensitively integrated without detracting from its special character, so that its use increases and it generates an income

for ongoing repair and maintenance, thus creating a sustainable future."

We envisage the future of the barn will include schools and education visits, public open days, functions such as wedding ceremonies, film and photoshoot location hire and community events such as Farmers Markets. We welcome your ideas and comments on this topic, so get in touch via tithebarntrust@gmail.com

We've been working hard; however, we still need your help to save this gem at the heart of Landbeach. The barn is in a poor condition and deteriorating. We believe the Tithe Barn, with thatched roof and historic brick and timber floor, to be unique to Cambridgeshire and even of national significance. Experts suggest that it may well date from the medieval period. Over 90% of Tithe Barns have been converted in the UK.

3 other Ways YOU can get involved

1. **Make a pledge today at www.tithebarntrust.org.uk/make-a-pledge**
2. **Become a Friend. Visit www.tithebarntrust.org.uk/become-a-member**
3. **Volunteer or become a trustee. Email tithebarntrust@gmail.com to find out more.**

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FEN EDGE PARISH COUNCILS

COTTENHAM

Fen Edge Festival: As usual we'll be hosting a display stall on the Village Green so please come along to see all the latest news on our various projects and meet with Councillors.

Village Hall & Nursery: The planning application process is proving more tortuous than we expected, made more complicated by the scale of the building, its location "in the open countryside" and sickness of our Case Officer. Assuming – fingers crossed – that we get planning permission for an acceptable design, we will need to complete the technical design and re-validate the financing approach before inviting competitive bids for the construction, several months later than we planned.

Major developments: The Planning Inspector adjourned the Public Inquiry into the refused Gladman application to give CPC the opportunity to participate fully in the Inquiry when it resumes, at the end of September. This followed on from the District Council's decision in late March to delegate approval of the second, slightly smaller, Gladman application subject to a suitable "section 106" agreement. That, in turn, led SCDC to decide not to defend the two key reasons on which they had refused the original application provided the Inspector accepted two changes – the smaller scale and redesigned Oakington Road / Rampton Road roundabout. The Parish Council objects, among other reasons, to the real harm that will be caused to the Almshouses by the increased traffic, a harm aggravated by the roundabout design. At the SCDC Planning Committee in May they deferred a

decision on the outline application by Persimmon for 126 houses on Oakington Road. They have until the end of July to make a decision.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: The draft Plan now includes several sustainable "green field" sites for modest-scale housing development. These are being assessed independently before the Plan is finalised for formal "Regulation 15" public consultation and independent examination by a Planning Inspector and, eventually, a referendum. The Pre-Submission Draft Plan (v2) is available for comment on our website.

Highways: The series of planned pavement and road improvements between Stevens Close and the High Street, and to crossings in Beach Road and the High Street should now be with contractors.

Village Hall/Sports Pavilion Hire: If you'd like to hire the Village Hall (up to 120 people) or Sports Pavilion multi-purpose room (up to 40 people) for your birthday party, christening, anniversary celebrations, classes etc. please contact Sam (asstcottenhampc@gmail.com) for rates and availability. You can also check the diary and make provisional booking enquiries via our website. Up to October, we are now offering 50% discount rates for evening hire of the Village Hall.

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WATERBEACH

Our Precept for 2017/18 is £158,720.

Planning Application: At the time of writing the Parish Council is finalising its response to the Urban and Civic Planning Application for Waterbeach New Town. This will be posted on the WPC website once submitted

Neighbourhood Plan: It has been a very busy year so far. We held consultations with residents and businesses and the following issues have been identified to be addressed by the plan in priority order: Transport and infrastructure, local services and community, development of the former barracks land, flooding and drainage, environment, rural nature, housing, conservation and heritage. Parish residents will be able to vote to adopt the plan when it is complete. Sign up to our e-newsletter by emailing: NPAdmin@Waterbeach.org.uk. Follow us on Facebook at Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan or Twitter at NPlanWaterbeach Council meets first Tuesday of month at The Old Pavilion Cambridge Rd, 7.30pm. Clerk: Shelley Mason. Office: Tues and Thurs 10am-2pm The Old Pavilion (or by appointment) 01223 441338; council@waterbeach.org.uk and www.waterbeach.org.uk

WILLINGHAM

QEII Playing Field: The entrance way to the field and under 5s play areas will have been tarmacked, making it easier for users to access the areas. Two new bins will also have been installed for users convenience. Since the installation of Phase I and Phase II of the park the facilities have been a great success and are used extensively by families coming down to picnic on the park and use the equipment.

Willingham Feast: weekend will take place 7-8 October and I am sure there will be a host of events taking place during the week before. It is anticipated that the fair will be arriving in the week leading up to the weekend and will be located on the Village Green.

Fen Gallop: This annual event is scheduled for the 9th July with enrolment by the 8th.

Defibrillator: The Parish Council already have one public defibrillator installed at the pavilion, West Fen Road, and during their precept discussions agreed to install a second one more centrally in the village. Details are yet to be confirmed but hopefully this will be sited by the end of the year.

Parish Council meetings are scheduled for the 1st Wednesday of the month and the public are invited to come along and speak under the public forum item regarding items on the agenda.



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Saturday 8th July, 2pm on Rampton village green
This traditional village fete with tombolas, raffle, games, stalls, etc. is always a treat and fun for all the family. Don't forget the annual tug-o-war competition, will your team be the next holders of the tug-o-war trophy? Do you want to rent a table for your organisation, or volunteer to help out? If so please call Judy Garstang on 01954 250960.

RAMPTON ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

Do try to get to the Village Hall on the weekend of 15 and 16 July to see a wide range of traditional and contemporary artwork by our lively art group. Inexpensive paintings, prints and cards to buy, lovely homemade cakes to sample and FREE entry with plenty of parking! Open 10am – 5pm on Saturday and 10am – 4pm on Sunday. Not to be missed!

RAMPTON CHARITY HORSE SHOW

The Rampton Charity Horse Show is taking place on Saturday 16th September on the Parkland, Rampton. This will be our 30th show and we are really hoping the weather will be kinder to us than it was last year! Some new jumping classes, the ever-

popular gymkhana and a very friendly, fun dog show. Something for everyone.

For more information check out our website www.ramptonhorshow.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL

Rampton Village Hall invites you to an evening of irresistible fun and music with QUICKSILVER Saturday 21st October 2017 at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). Hilary Spencer and Grant Baynham make up this extremely talented and versatile acoustic duo. After four years on BBC1's 'That's Life!' Grant Baynham became a household name. He is a formidable guitarist and songwriter. He has an energy and enthusiasm which create a high-powered performance of material from virtually every genre you can imagine. Is it possible to be formidable and hilarious at the same time? With Grant anything is possible.

Hilary has one of the most staggering voices in British acoustic music. Most folk fans will know it well from her work with top trio Artisan. Her humour mixes seamlessly with Grant's banter.

Tickets £10 (£8 for concessions) available from www.ramptonvillagehall.co.uk or call 01954 208045
There will be a licensed bar.

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ACCIDENTS HAPPEN, BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO?

When a child, parent, friend or stranger, has a medical emergency, what immediate actions can you take, regardless of training?

When you come across an accident, your words and your voice are your best tool. The way you respond as an individual and community matters. Even if you have not done a first aid course, or you are scared, you can still significantly contribute towards a positive outcome. They say "Actions speak louder than words" but your words and your voice are key.

Check for dangers, use your voice to reassure, to establish severity, priority and consciousness. Introduce yourself, ask the victim's name. Explain that you are getting help. Reassure them you are there. You can influence the physiological outcome with your own voice.

Use your voice to help them to help themselves, to remain still.

Use your voice to shout for assistance. Use your voice to call 999, request a helper to call, put the phone onto loud speaker, the responders trained voice will clearly guide you throughout. If telephone CPR is necessary their voice will deliver clear instructions.

You could be the only bystander with any first aid knowledge, use your voice to share advice, tips, observations, with others; you will be appreciated.

If you are involved and can't help directly use your voice to

share information.

Use your voice to gain consent to help. If the casualty is unconscious, consent is implied. The Good Samaritan Bill protects you from legal action should you give first aid, whether trained or not. *

Hearing is usually the last sense to go and first to return, so keep speaking, even if the casualty is unresponsive.

If an adult or child is not responding, or remains conscious but is deteriorating, you must deploy the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) immediately. Use your voice to share your community AED locations.

Switch the machine on. An AED is safe and designed for laypeople, it has its own clear speaking voice and will instruct you how to prepare.

If you are physically exhausted (quality chest compressions with rescue breaths (CPR) is very demanding) communicate handover instructions and inspire confidence in others with your voice.

Shout and flag down the Ambulance. The voice inside your own mind will keep your external voice calm.

*(Further information can be found under the Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism act 2015.)

For local hands-on training on safe AED use, or any level of first aid please contact jenny@thebridgefirstaid.co.uk

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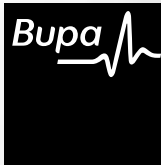


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A FUN-FILLED WEEKEND IN FRANCE

For the first May bank holiday, a group of about 40 from the Fen Edge villages travelled to Avrillé, near Angers in the Loire Valley for a twinning weekend.

A dinner was the main focus for the weekend and we were treated to a spectacular three course meal in a local chateau. We were entertained with a thoroughly amusing music quiz where teams had to identify the names of famous films/TV series in both French and English from their theme tunes. The French name was normally the expected translation of the English name but "Avengers" had the snappy French title "The man in the bowler hat and the lady in the leather boots" in French and "Jaws" became "teeth of the sea".

The only other activity attended by most of the families was an indoor picnic (regrettably, the weather was not kind in France on the Sunday). The atmosphere at the picnic was great in spite of the location and we were all together for about three hours. The French certainly know how to enjoy a meal together and my hosts raised the level of picnic food to another dimension with filet mignon en croute! No scotch eggs and sandwiches for us.

The rest of the weekend was left fairly free for hosts to take their guests on small trips. My hosts managed to fit in a trip for coffee in Angers, a boat ride on the Loire, a wine tasting, a quiet morning on Sunday (in part unfortunately to do my son's homework!) and a guided tour of a nearby chateau. We finished the weekend with a group dinner with about 4 other twinning families.

We are heading to France again in 2018 to celebrate both our 20 year anniversary and the 40 year anniversary of the twinning between Avrillé and Schwalbach am Tanus, Germany. The weekend promises to be a real celebration bringing together lots of different groups including musical and sporting groups. The dates for your diary are: Friday 4th to Monday 7th May 2018.

The Fen Edge Twinning Association is a local group which is open to all residents in Waterbeach, Landbeach, Cottenham, Rampton and Willingham. If you're interested in getting involved please contact either Julia Gwilt (juliagwilt@gmail.com) or Kit Kilgour (kitkilgour@yahoo.co.uk).

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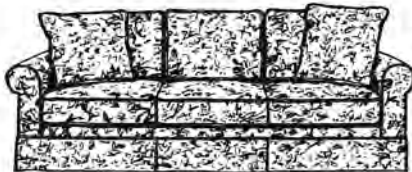
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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM BEER FESTIVAL

When Willingham residents stroll down Church Street at the end of June this year they will notice something completely new to arouse their senses. First they will see that a marquee has miraculously appeared in the Social Club car park. Then they will hear the pleasant sounds of summer music wafting on the breeze. Finally they will scent the sweet aroma of malt, hops and barley in the air. Yes, it's the **Willingham Beer Festival Thursday 29 June to 1 July.**

The Beer Festival is the fruit of an admirable collaboration between various groups in the village. The Social Club is providing the venue, wine, soft drinks and food. The Jam Club is providing the music from the pool of local talent that has graced many a village event. Willingham Action Group is providing the administrative support and the volunteers. Three primary sponsors - Hockey's Estate Agents, Uttridge Accounting Ltd and the Fen Edge Community Association - and local businesses are providing sponsorship for the whole event. And lastly, but not inconsequentially, the Bank Micropub is providing the beer, supported by the Jolly Good Beer Company (who are running the social media advertising and artwork for the glasses, banners and posters).

It has been heart-warming to see the enthusiasm of all the parties involved to make this a special village success story, with the added drive of channeling the Willingham Action Group proceeds from the event into disabled facilities at the Social Club. And with food, wine, soft drinks and of course music also available at the venue, it will be a real family event.

Willingham's very own festival beer

In honour of the event, one of the brewers (Three Blind Mice of Little Downham) has agreed to create a unique ale specially for the Festival and there's an opportunity for the Willingham community to get even more involved in the event by naming the new beer.

Name that beer

The beer will be a pale ale, about 4% ABV, infused with Willingham elderflowers. Send your suggestions for the name by visiting the website. A shortlist will be sent to the brewers for them to choose the final name.

The name of our new Festival brew will be unveiled on the first night of the Festival.

Opportunity to sponsor a barrel

There's still time for you to sponsor a barrel of beer at the Festival. For £50, your name or the name of your business can be displayed on one of the 25 barrels of beer and cider on offer for the duration of the Festival. Contact Paul at p.knighton@runbox.com

All you need to know

Where - Willingham Social Club, Church Street

When - Thursday 29 June 7pm – 11pm;

Friday 30 June 7pm – 11pm;

Saturday 1 July 12pm – 2pm and 7pm – 11pm

Music Thursday – Alchemy; Friday – Steve Lockwood Band; Saturday evening – Keith Pearson and Tim Jellis

Beers, ciders and other drinks - 25+ real ales, lagers and ciders supplied by The Bank Micropub. Wine and soft drinks supplied by the Social Club

Food - A variety of hot food

Entry - £3 adults, children free. £2 (refundable) for souvenir glass and programme

Website: <http://willingham.beer>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WillinghamBeer>

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM SOCIAL CLUB

The Club has a members bar and separate function room and is a not for profit organisation. There are lots of events planned for the forthcoming months as the Committee works hard to raise extra funds for new disabled toilet facilities and general improvements. These will benefit all users of the function room. Like us on Facebook for regular updates or www.willinghamsocialclub.com

Beer Festival: Thursday 29th June-Saturday 1st July
25+ beers and ciders, Live Music. Entry £3. See page 37.

Free Entry Karaoke Night: Friday 21st July 7.30pm
Doors open 7.30pm, open to everyone.

Around Midnight: Saturday 19th August 7.45pm
Live five piece covers band, playlist includes Van Morrison, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks. www.aroundmidnight.co.uk
Tickets £8 www.wegotickets.com/event/401259 or the club

Let There B/DC: Saturday 30th September 7.45pm
Live 'AC/DC' tribute band who are headlining many Rock Festivals this year! www.letthereb/dc.com Tickets £8
www.wegotickets.com/event/389728 or the club

Custard Comedy: returns Friday 6th October 7.45pm
Tickets £10 in advance from the club and online at
www.wegotickets.com/event/390436

The Jam Project: Friday 24th November 8pm
From Essex a live tribute to 'The Jam' www.thejamproject.uk
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The ideal candidate will be qualified to level 2. Training will be provided to develop skills and expertise. We're looking for someone to start asap.

If you think you could be the right person for this role please contact us for an application pack email: enquiries@willinghamyouthtrust.org

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<https://fenedgeorchestra.wordpress.com>

We are currently looking for more players and would be delighted to hear from you. We don't hold auditions and we are strictly non-competitive. We have vacancies for a 2nd Trumpet, Double Bass and Timpani/percussion player, and would also like to expand the violin and viola sections, so we are particularly keen to hear from people who play these instruments.

We will be performing at the Fen Edge Festival in Cottenham on Sunday 25th June at 2 pm, and our summer concert will be at All Saints' Church, Cottenham on Saturday 15th July.

BALLET POINTES

Our annual performance in May was a great success – the dancers excelled themselves and really showed what they can do. Our junior dancers had their ballet tests in June and the seniors will be working towards theirs which are in October.

We hope you enjoy our contemporary groups SCAMBS Juniors and Seniors at the Fen Edge Festival on 24 June; you will also be able to see them perform at Histon feast in July.

Fen Edge Dance meet on Saturday mornings and we do: Contemporary dance for under 11's in the dance studio 9.45am – 10.45am Jack Stinton (BA performing arts/dance); Ballet in the gym for age 11+ 9.30am – 10.45 am with April Martin (Assoc ARBTA BDQT); Contemporary for age 10+ in the gym 11am – noon with Dani Dasher and Jack Stinton. Younger ballet students are catered for on Wednesdays as part of community education classes. Get in touch: April Martin: www.abmschoolofdance.co.uk tutusrus@ntlworld.com

Jack Stinton Dance Company:
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Planning
Tree Surveys
Management
Stump Removal
Pruning & Shaping
Insurance Reports
Mortgage Reports



**Seasoned firewood
available all year**