

Fen Edge news

community association

NEW YEAR 2019

*News from your local Clubs,
Groups and Councils*

Plus
ADULT & FAMILY CLASSES

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The **Fen Edge Community Association** is a charity promoting and supporting Clubs, Groups and Societies in Cottenham, Landbeach, Rampton, Waterbeach and Willingham.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Fen Edge Festival is a great occasion in the Fen Edge village calendar. It is too early to start looking at the long-range weather forecast but it is not too early to mark your calendars for June 21-23, 2019. The dates are set.

The Festival has evolved over the years but we believe we have established a winning formula. Our simple objective is to showcase all that is good about village life by putting on an inclusive event that provides everyone with the opportunity to get involved and to participate in a wide range of activities with families and friends.

The Fen Edge Community Association is a charity and we also rely on the event to raise money for good causes in the community. Other Fen Edge charities and community associations participate in the event and they highlight their own activities, provide entertainment and also raise money for their good causes. Community associations and groups from Willingham, Rampton, Cottenham and Landbeach were involved. In 2017, over the whole event, well over £10,000 was raised for Fen Edge charities and community groups.

But the event is absolutely not about raising as much money as we can. We think that is what makes it so successful. We want to ensure that there is a wide range of events that are either free or reasonably priced, especially those aimed at families with children. In 2017, we ensured that no ride was more than £1 and we heavily subsidised popular activities such as the mini-golf. The Saturday and Sunday night events are always free to attend. This means that we know we are going to make a loss on some of the key activities. We will do the same in 2019 to ensure that the event is affordable.

How do we make up the gap?

We rely on local businesses and other bodies like the Parish Council to support us with financial and in-kind contributions. In the absence of these contributions, we would need to run the event just like any other fair with activities priced accordingly. We are very fortunate in that we have a large number of organisations who have been willing to support the event. We hope they will do so in 2019. Indeed, we hope that other businesses who have not supported us in recent years, will come forward and help.

The other thing that makes the event work is volunteers. Lots of them. The Organising Committee is already hard at work and they generously contribute their time in ensuring that the activities and facilities are booked, the appropriate licences and health and safety requirements in place and the stalls are occupied and positioned and many other tasks. No detail can be left to chance. The Committee is still on the hunt for willing volunteers to join to support our social media presence and health and safety roles. Come and be a part of something wonderful! If you wish to get involved, then please contact me at chair@fenedge.co.uk

Neil Gough

Chair, Fen Edge Community Association

Our front cover artwork was produced by members of Ramparts, based on a design drawn by local artist Steve Ferris, and depicts Cottenham Community Centre which celebrates its 10th Anniversary in March 2019. Photo by Adrian Stephens.

What is going on here? Find out on page 47



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FEN EDGE EVENTS DIARY

What's on and when in the villages

NOVEMBER

Wed 28th–Fri 30th Cottenham Theatre Workshop presents *Worzel Gummidge* at Cottenham Village College 7.30pm

DECEMBER

Sat 1st Cottenham Theatre Workshop presents *Worzel Gummidge* at Cottenham Village College Matinee 1pm and Evening 5.30pm

Sun 2nd Cottenham Community Centre – Community Cinema 2pm *The Incredibles 2* and 7:30pm *Mamma Mia Here We Go Again* (p25)

Mon 3rd Willingham Gardening Club – Christmas Party at Willingham Social Club 7.30pm (p49)

Wed 5th Willingham Social Club – AGM: *Everyone welcome* 8pm (p49)

Thu 6th Cottenham Primary School PTCA – Winter Fair at Cottenham Primary School (p11)

Sat 8th Willingham Social Club – Clairvoyant evening: *Angels Reunited* 7.30pm (p49)

Tue 11th Cottenham Parish Council – Carols on the green: *With a BBQ, mulled wine, music from Cottenham Junior Brass and a visit from Father Christmas* at Cottenham Village Green 6pm (p27)

Wed 12th Cottenham Women's Institute – Christmas Party at CVC, Tony Cooper suite 7.30pm (p11)

Sat 15th Willingham Social Club – Bingo: *Christmas family bingo* 6.30pm (p49)

Sun 16th Cottenham Community Centre – *The Roost* 10am to 12noon (p25)

Sun 16th All Saints' Church Cottenham – Blue Christmas service: *For those who want to mark Christmas in a quiet reflective way* 3pm (p11)

Tue 18th All Saints' Church Cottenham – Beer and Carols at The Chequers 8pm (p11)

Wed 19th Landbeach Busytots – Christmas Party at Landbeach Village Hall 10am–12pm (p41)

Wed 19th Cottenham Community Centre – *Mulled wine with Sing for Fun* 6pm (p25)

Fri 21st Willingham Social Club – Members' Christmas Party: *With Johnny Dee* 8pm (p49)

Sun 23rd All Saints' Church Cottenham – Nativity Service: *Come dressed as your favourite character from the Nativity story* 3pm (p11)

Mon 24th All Saints' Church – Carol Service: *A service of readings and carols* 5:30pm (p11)

Mon 24th Waterbeach Parish Council – Carols on the green 6pm (p29)

Tue 25th All Saints' Church Cottenham – BCP Holy Communion 8.30am. Family Communion 10.30am (p11)

Mon 31st Willingham Social Club – New Year's Eve Party: *Buffet and music*. 8pm–12.30am (p49)

JANUARY

Wed 9th Arthur Rank Hospice Charity – *Deadline to register for Christmas tree recycling* 1pm (p59)

Wed 9th Cottenham Women's Institute – Talk: *Dashing away with the smoothing iron* by Helen Green at CVC, Tony Cooper suite 7.30pm (p11)

Fri 11th Cottenham Village Society – Talk: *The Remarkable Story of Heffers of Cambridge* by Dr Julie E Bounford at All Saints' Church Hall, Cottenham 7.45pm (p21)

Sat 12th Cottenham 2nd Scout Group – Jumble Sale at Cottenham Village College 2–4pm (p19)

Wed 16th Crazy Crafty Chicks – Workshop: *Brightening winter days – Decorated table lamps* Cottenham Community Centre 7–9pm (p19)

Wed 16th Fen Edge Archaeology Group – Talk: *Cultural change in Anglo-Saxon England*, by Samantha Leggett at Cottenham Village College 7.30pm see www.feag.co.uk

Wed 16th Landbeach Society – AGM with wine & cheese at Landbeach Village Hall 7.30pm (p39)

Fri 18th Cottenham Gardeners Club – New Year Party at Franklin Gardens Community Room 7.15pm (p21)

Mon 21st Cottenham Library – Family History 7–9pm (p11)

FEN EDGE EVENTS DIARY

What's on and when in the villages

FEBRUARY

Mon 4th Willingham Gardening Club – Talk: *Capability Brown - Hero or villain?* By Michael Brown at Willingham Social Club 7.30pm (p49)

Fri 8th Cottenham Village Society – Talk: *The Private Life of Oliver Cromwell* by Stuart Orme at All Saints' Church Hall, Cottenham 7.45pm (p21)

Sat 9th Fen Edge Orchestra – Concert at Histon Baptist Church 7.30pm (p65)

Wed 13th Cottenham Women's Institute – Talk: *Cottenham then and now* by Ralph Carpenter at CVC, Tony Cooper suite 7.30pm (p11)

Thu 14th Fen Edge Archaeology Group – Talk: *Shining light on an old treasure: the Iron Age hoards from Snettisham, Norfolk* by Jody Joy at Cottenham Village College 7.30pm, see www.feag.co.uk

Mon 18th Cottenham Library – Family History 7–9pm (p11)

Fri 22nd Cottenham Gardeners Club – AGM & Talk at Franklin Gardens Community Room 7.30pm (p21)

MARCH

Mon 4th Willingham Gardening Club – AGM and Talk: *History of cottage gardens*. By Andrew Sankey at Willingham Social Club 7.30pm (p49)

Tue 5th Fen Edge Archaeology Group – Talk: *The great gold torc: a "new" Middle Bronze Age torc from near Ely* by Neil Wilkin at Willingham Baptist Church 7.30pm, see www.feag.co.uk

Fri 8th Cottenham Village Society – Talk: *Dressing a Tudor Woman* by Ruth Bramley at All Saints' Church Hall, Cottenham 7.45pm (p21)

Sat 9th Rampton Village Hall – Concert: *Songs from Through the Wild* by The Willows. Doors 7.15pm Performance 8pm (p43)

Wed 20th Landbeach Society – Talk: *Archaeology of the A14 improvement project* at Landbeach Village Hall 7.30pm (p39)

Fri 29th Cottenham Gardeners Club – Talk at Franklin Gardens Community Room 7.30pm (p21)

Sat 30th Rampton '77 Committee – Jumble Sale at Rampton Village Hall 10am (p43)

Sat 30th Willingham Social Club – Live Band: *The Ouse Valley Singles Club* 8pm (p49)

APRIL

Sun 7th Rampton '77 Committee – Rampton Relay: *Relay or solo race* at Giant's Hill, Rampton 2pm (p43)

Thu 11th Fen Edge Archaeology Group – Talk: *Bones on the beach: human evolution and osteoarchaeology in coastal environments* Michael Rivera at Cottenham Village College 7.30pm, see www.feag.co.uk

Fri 12th Cottenham Village Society – Talk: *The loss of skills in Conservation* by Jonathan Ashley-Smith at All Saints' Church Hall, Cottenham 7.30pm (p21)

Fri 26th Cottenham Gardeners Club – Talk at Franklin Gardens Community Room 7.30pm (p21)

Advance Notice

JUNE

Fri 21st–Sun 23rd FEN EDGE FESTIVAL

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The Fen Edge Community Association posts news and events from its members on the website www.fenedge.co.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/fenedgenews. You can like the Facebook page to get updates.

The Fen Edge Events Diary is available online at www.fenedge.co.uk/events-calendar where you will also find a link to subscribe to the calendar on your phone, tablet or PC.

These online resources regularly post news and events that may not be featured in the Fen Edge News. FECA member groups can use these resources by emailing editor@fenedge.co.uk

FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

Celebrating GCSE results

74.1% achieve grade 9-4 in both English and Maths.

Students at Cottenham Village College (CVC) celebrated a bumper crop of GCSE results, and with a Progress 8 score of 0.66. This year's results demonstrate that the College has performed strongly under the new, rigorous GCSE examinations. Students at CVC continue to flourish. English, maths and history have traditionally been strong at the college but now the vast majority of subjects perform significantly above the national average. Notable success this year has been achieved in chemistry, physics, biology, German, hairdressing, IT, dance and music all achieving 100% grade 9 – 4. Significant improvements have also been made by subjects such as Spanish 96% grade 9 – 4; physical education 94%; French 83%; and geography 83%.

Exceptional outcomes were achieved, and the following students stood out:

Ella Warde achieved eight grade 9s

Paula Ingate-Montero achieved six grade 9s

John Saji achieved six grade 9s

Hannah Bullough achieved five grade 9s

Across all subjects the Class of 2018 have performed extremely well. Some exceptional results achieved by students are:

Mia Beauchamp achieved three grade 9s, three grade 8s, one grade 7 and two grade 6s

Ruby Cattermole achieved two grade 9s, two grade 8s, one grade 7, one grade 6, three grade 5s and one Distinction*

Ellen Chaplin achieved four grade 9s, one A* grade, two grade 8s, two grade 7s and one grade 6

Bryn Ellis achieved four grade 9s, three grade 8s, one grade 7 and one grade 6

Joshua Holmes achieved four grade 8s, three grade 6s, one B grade and one grade 5

Simon Sharp achieved two grade 9s, four grade 8s, two grade 7s and one grade 6

Henry Wynn achieved four grade 9s, two grade 8s, two grade 7s and one grade 6

Helen Cassady, Principal of Cottenham Village College, said "Congratulations to the Class of 2018. They have worked extremely hard to achieve these excellent results. It is testament to the students, staff, parents, carers, and governors as well as Astrea. It is wonderful to see our students achieving well, being highly successful and being able to progress on to

their chosen areas of study. I would like to thank all the staff, students, parents and governors for their commitment and determination to ensure our students achieve exceptionally well."

The first half term has seen record numbers attending the college's open evening. If you missed this event and would like to visit the college, please contact us at your convenience. We are looking forward to our Christmas production which takes place on 14th, 17th and 18th December 2018. More details will follow shortly on our Facebook and website pages. Tickets can be purchased from the college.

COTTENHAM BOWLS CLUB

It has been a great summer for playing outdoor bowls. We have had a mixed season as the results below will show. The results are as follows:

Ely and District Division 1. Cottenham A winners of the league for the second year running.

Ely and District Division 2. Cottenham B 3rd out of 12 and promoted to Division 1.

Ely and District Gordon Bridges Cup
Cottenham A runners up.

County Triples 7th out of 8 in the new section 2.

C and D Division 1. 9th out of 10 and demoted to Division 2.

C and D Division 2. 10th out of 10 and demoted to Division 3.

Business House Mixed. 6th out of 13.

Well done to all the Team Captains and players who contribute so much to Cottenham Bowls Club.

The indoor short mat season is now in full swing.

If you are interested in playing short mat you can ring Eric Hobbs on 01954 251956. There is a membership fee of £15, no rink fee and just 50p for tea and biscuits. It is a great way to spend the winter months.

We have also had a number of social events throughout the season: a very successful open triples competition which involved 60 competitors; 2 BBQs; a fish'n'chips and race night; and quiz night.

Cottenham Bowls Club is a very friendly club with members from Cottenham and surrounding villages so come and give us a try. Everyone is welcome.

Contact: Dave Parrack 01954 230732, Eric Hobbs 01954 251956, Christine Forster 01954 200720.

Website www.hugofox.com/community/cottenham-bowls-club-8286



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

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For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations. We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases. For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists.

Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not like those 'perfect' ones we see in the media.

But just like the unexpected assortment of people who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, our invitation to you to Follow the Star this Christmas doesn't ask you to be perfect. Follow the star on top of the Church tower and come to one of our many Christmas services.

Follow the star by taking away a free copy of the Church of England *Follow the Star* booklet and enjoy a reflection for each of the 12 days of Christmas.

Mary and Joseph and all those caught up in the Christmas story were surprised by the astonishing way that God chose to live among us.

Each Christmas we are reminded of God's longing to surprise us with his gift of joy, love and new life. It's the greatest present we can receive and share with others! We look forward to welcoming you!



Christmas Services

16th December 3pm, Blue Christmas service – for those who want to mark Christmas in a quiet reflective way

18th December 8pm, Beer and carols at The Chequers

23rd December 3pm, Nativity service – come dressed as your favourite character from the Nativity story
24th December 5.30pm, Carol service – a great service of reading and carols, bringing the village of Cottenham together

24th December 11.30pm, Midnight communion – Celebrate the first communion of Christmas Day

25th December Christmas Day: 8.30am BCP Holy communion, 10.30am Family communion

COTTENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL PTCA

It's been another busy year so far for the PTCA. Some of our big events were the summer fair, bingo night, the brilliant magic show and the fantastic fireworks display. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped and supported these events, without you it would not be possible.

We have our wonderful Winter Fair which will be held on Thursday 6th December, where you can come and purchase some wonderful crafts, meet Father Christmas, eat some lovely food, have a drink and much more festive fun.

To make a donation to the PTCA via our MyDonate page, please go to: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/cottenhamprimaryschoolptca>

Contact: email CPS-PTCA@outlook.com, website www.cottenhamprimary.co.uk/ptca, Facebook www.facebook.com/CPSPTCA

COTTENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There is lots on offer at your local WI group. We have an exciting programme of speakers, craft activities, a walking group, darts team, poetry club, a new lunch group and a bridge group. So do come along and join us. You will be very welcome. More information from Jill Ballard 01954 250605 or Margaret Briggs 01954 250870.

Events

The following events take place at 7.30pm in the Tony Cooper suite at CVC, and there will be the usual tea and coffee with raffle and book stall.

12th December. Christmas party – food and festive entertainment.

9th January. Helen Green will give a talk *Dashing away with the smoothing iron*; it should be a lively and amusing evening.

13th February. Ralph Carpenter will give a talk about *Cottenham then and now*; find out about the places you pass every day.

COTTENHAM LIBRARY

Family History

Family History help is available on the 3rd Monday of each month. Come and bring your queries to our expert. Use the library computers which have free access to *Ancestry* and *Findmypast*.

Cottenham Library, Margett Street, 7pm to 9pm on Monday 21st January and 18th February. There is no meeting in March.

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM RENEGADES RUFC

The 2018/19 season got off to a good start for Cottenham Renegades with a set of strong (mostly) wins, which sees us just one point off the lead of their league (Eastern Counties Div 1 - West). The 19th October saw a first for the club when they played a league game against Ely under floodlights at Ely. Kick-off was at 8pm and a competitive game saw Renegades win 34-23. The weather was perfect, and the evening was an excellent social occasion. Cottenham Renegades also finally received our second strip (light blue) which was kindly funded by the Fen Edge Community Association. Thank you FECA. With our primary red and black strip and another in a fetching light blue, Renegades can contrast with any other team.

As always, we are looking for fresh young talent to play rugby. But, we are happy with stale old talent too. If you fancy a run out, come along to the Village College on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm to 9pm – we will be on or near the artificial turf facility under floodlights behind the main school. Or, come and watch us play – a full list of fixtures is available on our website (renegadesrugby.net). Home games are played at the Village College pitch behind the school. The club has a fantastic social side including a tour every year for the more adventurous. In 2019 we go to Sofia, Bulgaria. Social membership is open to all and members get a Renegades polo shirt, inclusive membership of the Cottenham Club and the chance to participate in our raffles for rugby international tickets. Tempting isn't it!

For more information, go along to a game or call 07966 404813.

COTTENHAM CRICKET CLUB

The 2018 season ended with our emotions swinging from despondency to elation! The 1st team finished third in Junior 1, our best season for four years, but we lost 40 points because of another club dropping out of the league. That seemed to have ruined any chance we had of promotion back to the senior league. However, the CCA readjusted some of the leagues above us, resulting in an unexpected place becoming available, which we were offered and accepted. So we are back in senior league cricket after just one season's absence! So, we would really like to strengthen our playing base – if there

is anyone in the village who is interested in playing, please do get in touch. You'll be extremely welcome. The 2nd team had a hard season but we were glad to be able to give several of our under-14 side the chance to cut their teeth in men's cricket regularly. It was a steep learning curve for the team but those youngsters will be all the better for the experience. We expect to see them come back strongly next year. During the school summer term, we ran three junior sides at under-11, under-12 and under-14 age levels. The younger sides found the going tough but competed well. Our under-14s finished second in their league, just two points behind the winners – a great effort from the team.

Indoor net practice will be starting in the New Year so please keep an eye on the Club News section of our website for details.

Contacts: Email: cottenhamccc@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary: David Chaplin (01954 250075)

Chairman: Ralph Lamble (07740 195947)

Vice Chairman: Dave Partridge (01954 203210)

Junior Teams Coordinators: Dave Partridge and Alan Raven (01954 250388)

Website: www.cottenham.play-cricket.com

Twitter: @CottenhamCrick

Dave Partridge

COTTENHAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

This season we are running two adult men's teams, a 1st team in the Kershaw Senior A League and a Reserve side in Division 3 of the Mead Plant & Grab League.

Training sessions for both squads take place weekly on the all-weather surface at the rear of Cottenham Village College on Wednesday evenings, 8-9pm.

All are welcome and you can be assured of a very friendly reception – so please do come along if you are interested in playing. You may be new to the village and looking for a chance to play close to home or already living here and wanting to get started again. Please just contact either our Chairman, Ian Stuchbury (07771 882182, email: Shirley.stuchbury@gmail.com) or Vice Chairman, Martin Carter (07876 373935, email: martin.shaggy@gmail.com).

Club Website: www.pitchero.com/clubs/cottenhamunited

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WE ARE MOVING

We have some very exciting news, we are moving premises in January 2019.

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Please follow us on Facebook or visit our website to stay in touch and to find out when we will be opening in Willingham and to book your beauty treatment at our current premises in Cottenham.

We would like to thank all our clients for their support over the last 15 years and hope to see you all at our new Salon.

Come on over to the Cottenham Salon before 22nd December and collect our special offer letter* offering a **money off** discount on your first treatment in the new Salon!

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Along with our new Salon we're excited to announce our new product range!

NEAL'S YARD REMEDIES

Offering Natural Organic Health & Beauty



Check out our frequently updated Facebook Page 'Classic Beauty of Cottenham'* for all the monthly offers and competitions to win prizes!

*name change in the New Year

Judy, Tanya and Vivien would like to take this opportunity to wish all our clients, old and new, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you all in Willingham! xx

**We hope you love our new relaxing environment
Thank you all for your continued support**

FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM UNITED COLTS SOCCER SCHOOL

Some time ago Cottenham United participants looked for ways in which we could help and support our local youngsters to improve their individual football and social skills. We were concerned that the local official football clubs seemed only to be interested in, and provided schools for, the most talented individuals. But it is not normally those individuals that need the extra training and focus. We found that there was a big gap in grassroots football for support for players of all abilities.

Jason Adams stepped forward to take this challenge on. He is one of our highly regarded coaches.

Operating under the Cottenham Colts Football Foundation he set up a Monday night soccer school to help players from all primary school ages who want to improve their individual skills as well as improve their social skills. The project has gone from

strength to strength; we have seen all players getting better and better each week; we have seen numbers increase from 15 players to 40 plus players.

The children are asked to put a lot of effort into these sessions each week – their training focusing on agility, strength and ball skills with the ball at their feet all the time.

Their reward is personal improvement; benefit for the teams they play for; and benefit for the club as a whole as general standards improve and players' self-esteem increases.

A big thank you to Jason and his team of volunteers, Todd, Geoff, Ben and Rob for all their hard work.

Long may they continue to support our future stars, improving and raising standards for grassroots football locally. If you are interested in these sessions please visit the club website

www.cottenhamunitedcolts.com or Facebook page for more details.



COTTENHAM CARECAR

Since the last FEN, we have lost some drivers and, luckily, replaced them all with new, very useful ones. Our thanks to them.

Oakington & Westwick (which we are looking after, pending them setting up their own scheme) continue to grow slowly. Perhaps, when Northstowe gets bigger they may decide to merge! Until then we have only one Oakington-based driver who is doing a marvellous job but, with the best will in the world, can't do it all.

So, COME ON OAKINGTON! Let's have another one, or two (or three) volunteer drivers.

Though the Fen Edge News is not distributed in Oakington, if you know people who live there do pass on the invitation and encourage them to make contact. CareCar provides a very valuable service to those in our villages who can't drive themselves. It's a worthwhile civic enterprise that relies on volunteer drivers who can choose how much time they give. Do get in touch. Anyone is most welcome to call Gerry on 01954 251929 to have a chat about the schemes and what they do, or about volunteering.

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FECA IN COTTENHAM



Girl Guiding District Day at Shepreth Wildlife Park 2018

On Saturday 21st July 2018 the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Cottenham District descended upon Shepreth Wildlife Park to enjoy a fun packed day. Together with leaders, young leaders and parent helpers, 115 girls were able to enjoy a variety of activities all laid on by the education team at the park.

The day started at 10am where we were met by a member of staff and everyone was given a safety talk about how to behave around the zoo and towards the animals, then we split off into smaller groups and took part in activities around the zoo.

The first group headed into the education centre and here the girls were

able to handle some reptiles; the giant snail was very slimy and the corn snake very slippery but the girls loved being able to be hands on.

The second group headed outside to take part in making butterfly feeders, this was great fun and a little messy! While taking part in the craft, the girls were given the chance to place their fingerprints on a lovely owl painting as a souvenir of our visit to Shepreth.



watch the Tiger come out and hunt for food, it was great fun.

The day finished at 3pm and all the girls were awarded a District Day out Badge for taking part, which was kindly funded by the Fen Edge Community Association.

Quotes from the girls: **Rosa:** My favourite part was when we got to hold the huge scorpion stick insect even though some people didn't want to. Watching the Tiger leap up the post for its food. I loved the red panda it was so cute, it was really fun. **Clem:** Although it was a very hot day everyone enjoyed their day, it was very interesting. I got to stroke a giant stick insect and let a snake slither up my arm.

Jessica: I think going to the zoo was a great opportunity for young children to understand how to handle an animal, it was fantastic learning about different animals there.



There was lots of free time to visit all the animals within the park and the highlight was the Tiger Talk and feeding time. The keepers hid the food around the enclosure and the girls were able to



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

CRAZY CRAFTY CHICKS

Recycling everyday materials and objects to make new treasures



Forever inspired to create new treasures, Cottenham resident Audrie Reed started Crazy Crafty Chicks in the village last November to share her ideas with others.

Crazy Crafty Chicks are tutor-led sessions. They run every third Wednesday of the month (except August and December) between 7-9pm at the Cottenham Community Centre Café and the fourth Thursday of the month during the daytime at the Oakington Garden Centre.

The cost is £20 including all materials, use of tools and refreshments. Workshops are bookable via Eventbrite or if online bookings are not for you, you can either email or call Audrie to book your space.

The workshops use mostly natural materials and alternate between glass, paper, wood and fabrics. Some of the past crafting projects have included using: old music scores and DVD discs to create gorgeous paper wreaths; brightly coloured old bedding & wire coat hangers for rag tied hearts; twigs and salt dough rabbits/chicks for Easter trees;



silhouettes and large gherkin jars to make sparkling fairy lanterns; wood offcuts for rustic miniature houses, lighthouses and churches; and driftwood for cute



boats and beach huts. Audrie says you don't need to be a crafter to enjoy the sessions. It is more about being able to have fun and relax, having time for yourself, meeting new people and learning new skills.

Upcoming Workshops:

16 and 24 January: Brightening winter days – Decorated table lamps

20 and 28 February: Check www.facebook.com/crazycraftychicksatCCC for workshop topic and information

Audrie Reed

audrireed@yahoo.co.uk
07912 606937

COTTENHAM 2ND SCOUT GROUP

The Annual 2nd Cottenham Scouts Jumble Sale will be held at Cottenham Village College on Saturday 12th January, from 2-4pm. Please help us raise vital funds to support Cottenham Beavers, Cubs and Scouts by donating unwanted clothes, linens, books, toys, puzzles, games and bric-a-brac. Please note we are unable to accept donations of large items of furniture or televisions. We will be accepting donations on the morning of the sale – please come to the front of CVC to drop off your items. We also offer a donations collection service for the elderly and disabled – please email scouts.2ndcottenham@gmail.com or telephone 01954 204562. There will also be a cake stall and tombola. Remaining unsold items will be donated to East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH).

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM GARDENERS' CLUB

The club usually meets on the last Friday of the month, at Franklin Gardens Community Room, with refreshments served from 7.30pm, followed by a talk at 7.45pm. The evening closes with a raffle.

Coming Events:

18th January New Year Party with supper, provided jointly by committee and members, and a quiz.

Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

22nd February Annual General Meeting, when the new 2019/2020 programme will be available, followed by a short talk.

Dates and speakers have yet to be confirmed, but the next two meetings should be on Fridays 29th March and 26th April – please check posters and local newsletters.

Annual membership runs from the AGM to the following February. Subscription is currently £14/ annum, subject to change at the AGM. Guests and new members are welcome to try a single meeting for £2, or £4 for one of the parties.

For any further information please contact

Sarah Dumont 01954 260482.

WHIRL & TWIRL



Whirl & Twirl dance on a Wednesday night at the Cottenham Community Centre in the Main Hall behind the Coffee Shop. It is dancing choreographed ballroom which, unlike 'Strictly,' is learnt at the dancer's own pace in

a nice social atmosphere. The dancers exercise both physically and mentally while having a great deal of fun.

Each week Suzanne, who is the Cuer and leads the session, will demonstrate a new figure, a small number of steps, which the dancers can then practise. Recently the club held a Saturday Halloween workshop and dance which was well attended by dancers from around the UK. The workshop consisted of two Disney-themed Rumba dances which were very well received.

The present student class will very soon be completing Two-Step before moving onto Waltz. Although the dancing is non-competitive the club loves to recognise the achievements of the students and very soon they hope to hold a small fun graduation ceremony to celebrate. Over the

Christmas period the club will enjoy a Christmas Dinner and Party Night.

Next year will be the special celebrations of the Community Centre 10th Anniversary and the Fen Edge Festival. Whirl & Twirl are planning to be involved in both celebrations. Meanwhile if you would like to give Waltz a try you can contact Suzanne in the evenings on 07958 545754, or just turn up on a Wednesday evening between 7pm and 9pm for light refreshments and the chance to have a look at what we do. You are always welcome.

COTTENHAM VILLAGE SOCIETY



The Cottenham Village Society was formed in late 1970 in order to stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the village and its surroundings. We also take an interest in developments in

the village especially historic and public amenities. So we have talks about historic buildings, objects and people, and exhibitions.

Continuing Research

Can you help? We are collecting information and pictures about past traders in Cottenham. Businesses, shops etc. If you have anything please contact the secretary by email cottvillsoc@gmail.com

Lecture Series

Our series of lectures continues on the second Friday of the month at All Saints' Church Hall, High Street, Cottenham at 7.45pm. Everyone is welcome to our meetings, there is a charge of £2 if you are not a member.

11th January Dr Julie E Bounford, *The Remarkable Story of Heffers of Cambridge*

8th February Stuart Orme, *The Private Life of Oliver Cromwell*

8th March Ruth Bramley, *Dressing a Tudor Woman*

12th April Jonathan Ashley-Smith, *The loss of skills in Conservation*

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www.cottenhamvillagesociety.ukfamilies.com

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Cottenham Baptist Church is a small family church in the heart of our community – including the young, old, married, single, traditional and contemporary. As part of the Cottenham community we enjoy and value getting involved in the Fen Edge Festival (look out for us next year), Feast Parade, Remembrance Sunday and other events that happen throughout the year.

We meet together every Sunday at 10.30am.

On the first Sunday of each month all are invited to a Sunday Breakfast, which is either a cooked breakfast, bacon and egg rolls, or yogurts and fruit – depending on the month! There is also a quiz or other activity during this time, followed by a short service together at the end. On other weeks we hold more traditional services, with groups for children and young people, although not as traditional as our building would suggest! During the week we run a number of activities including:

Our under 1's group on a Monday afternoon from 1-3pm, for all those who have children 0-12 months. They can pop in any time for a coffee and chat, while their children enjoy the ball pool, jungle gym, soft mats and other toys!

The **Cottenham Foodbank** distribution centre (run with the other churches in Cottenham) takes place in our back hall on Wednesday afternoons. We are open from 1.30-3pm for anyone who needs to access this service.

Thursday Hub from 10.30am-12pm on the first Thursday of each month, in our coffee lounge, for those who are able to join us for coffee, cake and chat.

Attic Youth Club on Sunday evenings from 6.30-8.15pm for those 11 years and upwards.

For more information about what we do and who we are please look at our website www.cottenhambaptist.org.uk call 01954 252378 or find us on Facebook.

COTTENHAM CARES

We are an informal group of village residents who have come together to raise funds to help relieve the suffering of those affected by the war in Syria. Since we started at the end of 2015 we have collected almost £27,000 through a variety of events: carol singing, a sponsored winter camp,

a Syrian meal, a golf day, a music quiz, table-top sales, generous donations, ceilidhs in the Village College and a baroque music concert in All Saints' Parish Church.

All the money raised has been donated to Save the Children and Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders to support the vital work they are doing in Syria and its bordering countries. Some recent letters from these charities show the value of our efforts.

Save the Children write "We would like to thank everyone at Cottenham Cares on behalf of all the children we support, for your fundraising efforts year for our Syria appeal. Your support has helped us save children's lives.

It's now been over seven years of brutal war in Syria. The psychological toll of living through years of conflict is enormous for children living in the country. The prolonged exposure to war, violence and uncertainty means that many children are in a state of 'toxic stress', leaving emotional scars which may never fully heal. But with the phenomenal help of supporters like you, we are working tirelessly to prevent any more children from losing their childhoods. Your support has helped us reach even more children who are in desperate need of our help – thank you."

Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors without Borders write: "Medecins Sans Frontieres are extremely grateful for the very generous donation raised in support of our work in Syria." The letter came from a surgeon recently returned from Jordan. He describes the care given to 8 year old Zehra who lost her father and siblings in an airstrike and herself received life-changing injuries. He concludes: "Your support makes it possible for MSF to help Zehra and others like her with surgery, post-operative care and counselling. I feel proud to have been part of it in a small way. I've finished my posting in Jordan now. It was my first time treating war injuries, but managing complicated wounds proved much easier than saying goodbye. Thank you so much for your generosity."

The achievements of Cottenham Cares have only been possible because of the help and hard work of our supporters. If you would like to join our emailing list and be informed of future fundraising events please contact ralphandhiliary@gmail.com

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COTTENHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Classes and activities

The Community Centre (opposite the Co-op on the High Street) has become a very established part of village life and people still comment “what did we do before the centre opened?” and “I was doubtful whether it would work but....” Well, it is almost 10 years since the charity that runs it was established! To celebrate this 10th anniversary, we plan to hold events 16th-23rd March 2019. If you would like to be involved, please do get in touch. More information will appear on CCC Facebook and website. By the time you read this article, the back kitchen and toilets will have been re-roofed and re-fitted and three windows in the hall replaced. We apologise for any inconvenience whilst the work has progressed. We are very appreciative of the financial help we have received from the Parish Council, Amey, FECA, ARM, the Co-op and others.

For full details of our many classes on each day and evening, see “Classes” on our website www.cottenhamcc.org or under “Function Rooms”, then refer to the room (hall, studio or coffee shop) booking calendars. Most classes can welcome new people.

NEW: On **Wednesdays** All Dance 7-8pm in the studio

Saturday: Colour Awareness workshops, Defibrillator and First Aid training, bookings miranda@mi-time.eu; Dads Play 10.30-11.30am (2nd Saturday of month);

Sunday: 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 First Sunday of the month 7.30pm and sometimes, for families, 2.30pm. Information from website www.revcoffee.net or www.facebook.com/CottenhamCommunityCinema or email simon.oliver@cantab.net

Special Event: Wednesday 19th December
Mulled wine and Christmas music 6pm onwards

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 to cover room hire?

Cottenham Community Centre would like to hear from you. We charge for using these facilities, but we are keen to encourage community activities and would be flexible towards organisations looking to try out

new community projects. If you would like to know more please contact us (details below).

Room Hire

There are three rooms (main hall, studio, coffee shop) for hire at the Cottenham Community Centre for new activities or parties. Full food catering and/or a bar can be provided. The hall is also great for businesses to use for training or meetings. Full entertainment licence held. New from December our wonderful new back kitchen facilities – great for parties or a pop up café.

Artwork on display in the coffee shop

Cottenham Community Centre regularly displays a selection of works by Cambridgeshire artists. The artwork can be purchased with 20% of the proceeds donated to the Centre itself.

If artists are interested in this excellent opportunity to display their work, contact the art co-ordinator, Claire Noelle Holmes – email clairenoelleholmes@gmail.com An artist's statement is required with details of artistic background, techniques used, extent of exhibition history and contact details. Artwork should be framed, unless on canvas. The exhibitions usually run for two months. There is a wall hanging system in place and plentiful wall space to show work.

Enjoy

Come in and enjoy a fantastic scone, cake or lunch. Coffee shop opening times are 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 Christmas break at 2pm on Saturday 22nd December and re-open at 10am on Thursday 3rd January 2019.

Become part of the team at the coffee shop, meet people and improve your skills. Weekly or less regular volunteers welcomed. Are you looking to complete the volunteering section of your Duke of Edinburgh Award or have a reference for your CV and College applications? We welcome young volunteers.

Come and have a chat with Jane, our manager or call on 01954 202109 or email manager@cottenhamcc.org

Become a member of CCC and help ensure that this popular community centre continues to be a major focus of Fen Edge life or maybe consider becoming a trustee yourself – www.cottenhamcc.org/membership

Contact: website www.cottenhamcc.org or email smithmichaelstanley@hotmail.com
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PARISH COUNCILS

COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

ARTA Award to Cottenham's own Curry Palace

We were delighted to be able to help Mr Miah, the owner of the Curry Palace, and his team celebrate their national success as "Champion of Champions" in the Asian Restaurant & Takeaway Awards this year. Many local activities and clubs have benefitted from sponsorship or support from the Curry Palace over recent years.

Carols on the Green – 11th December 6pm. Enjoy a BBQ, mulled wine, music from Cottenham Junior Brass and a visit from Father Christmas – it's a great way to kick off the festive season! Please contact us if you'd like to have a stall on the night.

Neighbourhood Plan. Thanks to everyone who took the time to comment on the draft plan. There were several hundred responses to the consultation. While most of the responses addressed an individual policy issue, some responses included many more points than there are proposed policies! The consultation was conducted alongside a Strategic Environment Assessment in which the three statutory consultees – Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England – and AECOM advise on any necessary changes. That exercise has given the plan a clean bill of health. We are now making the minor revisions necessary to make the plan clearer in places.

Eventually, a Submission Plan will be examined by an Independent NP Examiner, who will assess if the plan is legally valid and ready to put to a referendum and taken into the Local Plan if approved by a majority of those voting.

Village Hall/Nursery update. Following planning approval for the new Village Hall, the Parish Council approved funding to develop the design ready for competitive tender shortly after Christmas. At the time of writing we're still waiting on a decision from SCDC regarding the nursery.

Having developed a plan showing how we can finance the construction within the established £1/week/Band D equivalent home supplementary precept, the Parish Council has also approved an application to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government for permission to borrow the necessary finance for the construction phase should that be approved.

We will soon welcome discussions with new and current users of the Village Hall about transition arrangements while the Hall is out of use, and long-term hiring and sponsorship possibilities in the new Hall.

Crimes. REPORT REPORT REPORT – any crimes/concerns to 101 or www.cambs.police.uk/report – if they don't get reported, the Police aren't aware of where to prioritise their patrols. There is a county wide lack of reporting – Police data

shows that we have very little crime across South Cambs – so we need to be more proactive and report concerns to the Police, rather than moan about it on social media! It is not a waste of time – all reports get logged and enable the Police to ascertain where persistent problems occur.

Jo Brook, Parish Clerk, clerk@cottenhampc.org.uk
Parish Office – 07503 328401 www.cottenhampc.org.uk
www.facebook.com/cottenhamparishcouncil

LANDBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Mobile Warden – If anyone is interested in hearing more about joining this scheme, please contact the Mobile Warden (07977 219403). This will be in total confidence.

Contact: Maria Sylvester Parish Clerk,
landbeachparishcouncil@gmail 07724 047656

RAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

WWI Commemoration Events. The Village Hall has planned talks, a display, art works and a "homecoming" event over the centenary commemoration weekend. As part of these events RPC, on behalf of the community, planted a hornbeam tree (a common tree on the battlefields) on the Recreation Ground at 11am on Saturday 10th November.

Installation of Solar Lighting Studs on Cottenham to Rampton foot/cycle path. Comments on the effectiveness of the lighting for improving night time walking and cycling would be appreciated.

King Street Recreation Ground. Encouragement has been given to local children's sports groups in and outside Rampton. Subject to securing a grant, the toddler play area will hopefully be getting a makeover and some new equipment. RPC would like to thank all of the volunteers who turned out for the recent work party to undertake raking of the wildflower meadow and tidying of brambles in the play area.

Council Training. With all the new legislation, and change happening within the Council representatives, training has been stepped up to improve the Council's effectiveness in the long term. The clerk is undergoing Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) training and individual Councillors have/are hoping to complete relevant training including Chairmanship, Councillor and Code of Conduct courses.

Meetings. The first scheduled meetings in 2019 will be in January and March. Meetings are normally held on the first Monday at 7.30pm in Rampton Village Hall.

Contact and Information

Claire Perrott, Parish Clerk, ramptonparishclerk@gmail.com
Information about Rampton Parish Council and Events can be found on the website: rampton.org

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PARISH COUNCILS

WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Following the recent adoption of the Local Plan, South Cambridgeshire District Council have published their proposals for developing the New Town. Details are on the SCDC website at: www.scambs.gov.uk/waterbeachspd
A consultation closed on 26th October 2018.

Waterbeach Parish Council objected to the proposal for an energy from waste (incinerator) plant and welcomes the decision of Cambridgeshire County Council's Planning Committee to reject the application at its meeting on 17th September.

Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is planning to link Cambridge to surrounding villages by greenways (cycle, walking and equestrian routes). GCP has launched a consultation on a Waterbeach Greenway, which will run until 3rd December 2018. GCP are planning or have delivered a leaflet and questionnaire to residents. Further information on scheme details and questionnaires here:
www.consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/Greenways

Carols on the Green will be taking place on Christmas Eve on the Village Green. At the time of writing we haven't

been formally notified of the start time, but traditionally this is 6pm.

Events: June will be a busy month with Waterbeach Feast on the Village Green on Saturday 8th June, and the Waterbeach Dog Show taking place on Saturday 15th June on the Recreation Ground.

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A new councillor, Simon Anderson, joined us in October. Councillors details available at willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

3rd Defibrillator. The second village defibrillator, installed in the Library, was used recently and then returned after travelling with a patient to Addenbrooke's Hospital. Due to privacy we don't know the details of its use. Inspired by this event the Council intends to provide in next year's budget for a third device to be installed somewhere in the south of the village.

WWI Commemorative Bench. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of The Great War, the Parish Council has installed a memorial bench in the cemetery. This was officially inaugurated as part of the Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial.

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FECA IN LANDBEACH

LANDBEACH SOCIETY

The Society exists for anyone interested in the history of the village, its place within the region and in protecting the environment of the village.

Over the last few years we have held ten meetings a year but it has been decided that from 2019 the number of meetings will be reduced to four to include the Landbeach Lunch in June and the Christmas Celebration in December.

The Society is also committed to working closely with other village societies which share our aims such as the Friends of Worts Meadow and the Tithe Barn Trust. The cost of membership is £2.00 per annum and entrance to the talks in the Village Hall is currently £5.00 (under review) per person. You do not need to be a member to attend the talks.

All meetings are in Landbeach Village Hall starting at 7.30pm and finishing around 9pm, unless otherwise stated on the programme.

Programme

Wednesday 16th January 2019 – AGM with wine and cheese (admission free)

Wednesday 20th March – Archaeology of the A14 improvement project

Saturday 22nd June – Landbeach Lunch (admission free, donations welcome)

FRIENDS OF WORTS MEADOW

New ponds for wildlife

In the Autumn edition of Fen Edge News I described some of the things we have been doing to help manage Worts Meadow and Bourne Wood, our local nature reserve (LNR) in Landbeach. In September we embarked on a more drastic management of the area between the meadow and the wood. This is where two of our small ponds are and the area used to be very open with scrubby grassland. Over the past few years it has become overgrown with dense prickly scrub mainly

blackthorn, brambles and hawthorn plus some dogwood and rather pretty teasels. Unusually, both of the ponds in this area completely dried out during the long and relatively hot summer. Froglife, the national charity concerned with the conservation of amphibians and reptiles, had suggested we could improve the habitat to help populations of amphibians, in particular Great Crested Newts. With due permissions they spent a week clearing the scrub, digging out a new pond and deepening the other two adjacent ponds. The spoil was used to build up a bank which will be grassed and hopefully a bench will eventually be installed from which to admire the ponds! Currently the site looks a mud-strewn mess as you would expect, but it will soon recover and hopefully the ponds will fill up quickly with the winter rains (though you can never tell how long this will take in dry East Anglia). All the work was done by Froglife and was also partly funded by the Cambridge Community Foundation and the Heritage Lottery Fund. For our part we helped clear access routes for the digger and will be improving and maintaining the area as it recovers. BUT we can't do this without volunteers! So if you would like to join any of our work parties then look out for the dates on our Facebook page and in the Fen Edge Events Diary or join our email list. Recently we have also had help from the Community Payback Scheme, who have been clearing swathes of brambles around the moat and along the ditch leading from it, thereby improving the habitat for amphibians and other wet-loving wildlife. So a big thank you to them, to our small band of dedicated FOWM volunteers and especially to Froglife.

With the help of CPERC (Cambridge and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre) experts and volunteers, our July Bioblitz in Worts Meadow was a great success and around 40 people took part including an enthusiastic bevy of children. We are still waiting for the completed lists of pond life, moths, other insects and creepy crawlies, plants, amphibians and reptiles, but we certainly added many more species to our site list. Hopefully the new and renovated ponds will now become home to even more wildlife.

FOWM volunteers help with the practical management of Worts Meadow Local Nature Reserve in Landbeach. 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



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FECA IN LANDBEACH

LANDBEACH BUSYTOTS

Need to keep your toddler busy? Come and join us! We are a baby and toddler group based at Landbeach Village Hall, run entirely by volunteers. We are open every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon and we welcome everybody!

We offer play-based learning to include a different craft activity every week, messy play and many other play stations to keep the little ones entertained. It is a great way to meet local people in a relaxing environment.

During the hot summer months, the children enjoyed playing in the garden with water play and outdoor painting. As we prepare for the colder months we are turning our attention to the changing seasons and Christmas. Recently the children have been hands-on making ladybirds/spiders/hedgehogs, painting autumnal trees and enjoying seasonal messy play.

See more on: facebook.com/LandbeachBusytots to view our weekly activities and upcoming events including our Christmas Party:

Christmas Party – Wednesday 19th December

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FECA IN RAMPTON

RAMPARTS – EXHIBITION BOARDS

Ramparts and many other art organisations were very pleased to receive a grant from FECA to replace our exhibition boards. These were first used for the Cambridge Open Art Exhibition in October. Over 300 artworks were hung from professional and emerging artists from Cambridgeshire. One of the prize-winners was Linda Heywood from Rampton. The exhibition attracted many visitors and

buyers; and students helped with the organisation.

The exhibition was opened by Cambridgeshire's Deputy Lieutenant, Jeremy Newsum, who commented on the professional hanging systems. The exhibition boards were originally bought by SCDC many years ago and after much use are gradually being replaced.

They are stored at Rampton Village Hall – thank you to the Horse Show



Linda Heywood's
prize-winning entry

organisers for making space for them – and they are available for use by other organisations in the Fen Edge patch and further afield.



Exhibits on the new boards

RAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

The Willows

We are delighted to welcome The Willows back to Rampton. The Willows are a folk band from Cambridge and are touring with music from their most recent album, *Through the Wild* (released 30th Nov 2018).



Their first album *Beneath Our Humble Soil* was nominated for best debut in the Spiral Earth Awards 2014, and was championed by the likes of Bob Harris and Mike Harding. The much anticipated follow-up *Amidst Fiery Skies*, co-produced with Sean Lakeman was released to critical acclaim, with The Daily Telegraph hailing it "a triumph" in a 5-star review and a place in their "Folk Albums of 2014". The band takes influence from folk traditions on both sides of the Atlantic.

For more information see the band's website at www.thewillowsband.co.uk

Performance: March 9th, doors open 7.15pm starting at 8pm.

Cash bar available throughout the evening. Advance tickets £12 from www.ramptonvillagehall.co.uk or £14 on the door.

Other Events

Grand Jumble Sale, Rampton Village Hall, 30th March. Doors open at 10am, entry 30p. Items for sale may be delivered evening of 29th or first thing on the 30th. Rampton Relay, Giant's Hill, Rampton 7th April 2019. Registration from 2pm in the field, race starts at 2.30pm. A run over a 1 mile circular cross-country course. Usually tackled as a four lap relay by teams of four. Single runners are also welcome to run one or more laps. Single runner £3, relay team £10. All proceeds to local charity; last year we donated £150 to the Papworth Hospital Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group.

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FECA IN RAMPTON

RAMPTON CHARITY HORSE SHOW

The 2018 Rampton Horse Show took place on Saturday 15th September. For once the weather was kind to us. This year was the 31st year of the show and we are delighted to report an increase in both the number of entrants and the number of visitors, which enabled the committee to make the following donations:

£400 to **Papworth Hospital Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group** (in honour of our longstanding Chairman, Mick North, who very sadly passed away in 2018);
£700 to **Fenland Animal Rescue**; and
£400 to **Rampton Church**.

This year Rampton Horse Show Committee was able to increase the safety of our competitors by the use of our new plastic jump cups. These were purchased with a very generous grant from the Fen Edge Community Association and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our grateful thanks.

Arrangements will soon be underway for next year's show, the provisional date of which is Saturday 21st September 2019. This date will be confirmed at our AGM in March next year.

We continue to keep entry fees low to enable competitors to enter multiple classes and therefore rely heavily on the support of local businesses and individuals, who we hope will sponsor a class, advertise in our show schedule or donate a raffle prize. We urge you all to support us – we are one of the very few surviving traditional village horse shows in the area.

We are a relatively small committee and are always on the lookout for new members. You don't need to be "horsey" to enjoy the camaraderie of this hardworking committee and we can promise new committee members a fun, rewarding time.

We hope to see you all at next year's show. Regardless of the vagaries of the British weather, the show will go on!



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 2018 – A Double Celebration for Willingham WI

In 1918 the Representation of the People Act was passed which allowed some women over the age of 30 to vote. Although this still did not give women the same voting rights as men, it is widely acknowledged as being the date when women 'got the vote'.

To mark the centenary of the passing of the Act, members of Willingham WI took to the streets of Willingham on Saturday 18th August (see photo p5). Many were dressed in outfits similar to those worn by the women of the suffrage movement, along with *Vote for Women* sashes in the Suffragettes' colour scheme of purple for loyalty and dignity, white for purity and green for hope. We carried placards as well, on which we conveyed messages about the ongoing campaign for equality for women.

We attracted friendly applause and hooting from passing cars as we made our way around the streets of Willingham. Our final destination was a marquee on the Village Green where tea and cakes were enjoyed by all the marchers, their friends and family, and yet more of our WI members. And, as a demonstration of equality, it was the men who served the tea, cut up the cake and cleared the tables.

Our second celebration was to mark our 90th Birthday. Willingham WI was founded on 10th October 1928 by around 50 members, which all our present-day members considered worthy of a celebration. Sixty of us gathered at the Willingham Auctions Café on Monday 8th October to enjoy a sparkling wine reception, followed by a three course meal, and a birthday cake which had been made by one of our members. It was a very pleasant evening, enjoyed by all.



WILLINGHAM ACTION GROUP Willingham Feast 2018

At the time of writing (October) there are still two events to take place so this is about those that have taken place so far. In some ways this is the best, and perhaps the worst Feast since Willingham Action Group took over the coordination eight years ago.

The best, well the **Beer Festival** is reported on elsewhere, but suffice to say it was a great success with the atmosphere of a party attended by friends rather than a commercial event. It raised a substantial amount of money towards getting a disabled toilet at the Social Club. The **Custard Comedy** nights at the Social Club are always well attended because everybody will be laughing all the time. The first **Willingham Dog Show** was a great success, but as someone who, I confess, is fairly ambivalent about dogs I was amazed how you can fit at least forty dogs into the Duke of Wellington beer garden and still have a highly organised fun-filled event – my favourite part being the 'best trick' section.

For me to decide on the best Feast event would be difficult. The **Wine Quiz** would come close. But, my favourite event would have to be the **Old Willingham** night at the Baptist Hall. This event managed to be both poignant and great fun at the same time as when Anne Kirkman recounted details of the First World War, including reading letters sent home from Willingham young men serving in France. We watched videos of the Willingham Gala and the building of a swimming pool: how times have changed with planning and Health and Safety for at that time it was simply 'we want a swimming pool so let's build one.'

The worst, well the weather was not kind to the Yard Sale or the Funfair as the cold and rain on the Saturday kept many away. Despite the rain the organisers of the **Willingham Photography Club Exhibition** in the Public Hall and those of the **Octagon Art Group Exhibition** in the library were pleased with the numbers of people who visited.

On a final note it is sometimes mentioned that the Feast events start too early. Initially we did try to fit many events around the Feast Sunday but found that those villagers such as parents with small children were not able to attend four events spread over three days so we now hold events over three weeks.

Mike Tidball, Secretary, Willingham Action Group
P.S. We really need more volunteers to help with WAG events – if you can help then please get in touch – m.tidball@btinternet.com

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM HORTICULTURAL & CRAFT SHOW REPORT

This annual event, open to all-comers, is organised by members of Willingham Gardening Club, with, once again, the assistance of other key village organisations. The event is an opportunity for village residents and others to display and share their skills and provide visitors with an enjoyable day. The profits from the show go to support a cancer charity based in Cottenham, which supports cancer research programmes at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Cambridge University.

We had concerns this year about the long spell of hot, dry, weather affecting the number of horticultural entries. However, we were pleasantly surprised by the quantity and quality of produce that turned up on the day. Encouragingly, this year the children's classes were well-filled with imaginative entries. Other classes were similarly well-filled with entries of a high standard. The fine weather ensured a good turn-out and it was pleasing to see so many

new faces this year, something we hope will ensure the continued running of the Show.



continued on page 53

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

continued from page 51

Our thanks to the Head of the Primary School and their Site Manager, for once again giving us the use of their halls.

Thanks are also due to the many helpers who give freely of their time each year and local businesses which donated raffle prizes or gave money towards the cost of running the show.

But most of all, to the exhibitors, who make the show by entering their produce and displaying their creative talents, stimulating much interest and comment from the visitors and hopefully creating an interest in gardening, homecraft, photography, art or craft hobbies. We look forward to seeing new exhibitors next year.

Raffle Prizes and donations were given by: A R Aspinall & Sons; Berrycroft Stores; The Book Warren & Café; Bushel Box Farm Shop; Foreman's Garage; Highgate Country Store; Mac Hair Studio; Meraki Hair and Beauty; Ponders Travel; Rainbow Crafts;

The Porterhouse/Duke of Wellington; Willflower Florists; Willingham Co-op; Willingham Motors and other personal donations.

We are grateful to our judges, stewards, show photographer and helpers in all capacities many of whom have supported the show and given their time freely over the years. A special thank you for our auctioneer, Roger Denson, who came straight to the show from his cruise, whose efforts greatly added to the money we raised. Roger also presented the winners' trophies.

This year we were again joined by Willingham Combined Charities which administers the Village Allotments. Their representative, Andy Thompson, gave us an update on the current availability of allotments and presented trophies to members of Willingham Allotments.

The next Horticultural and Craft Show will be held on Saturday 31st August 2019. We look forward to seeing you there.

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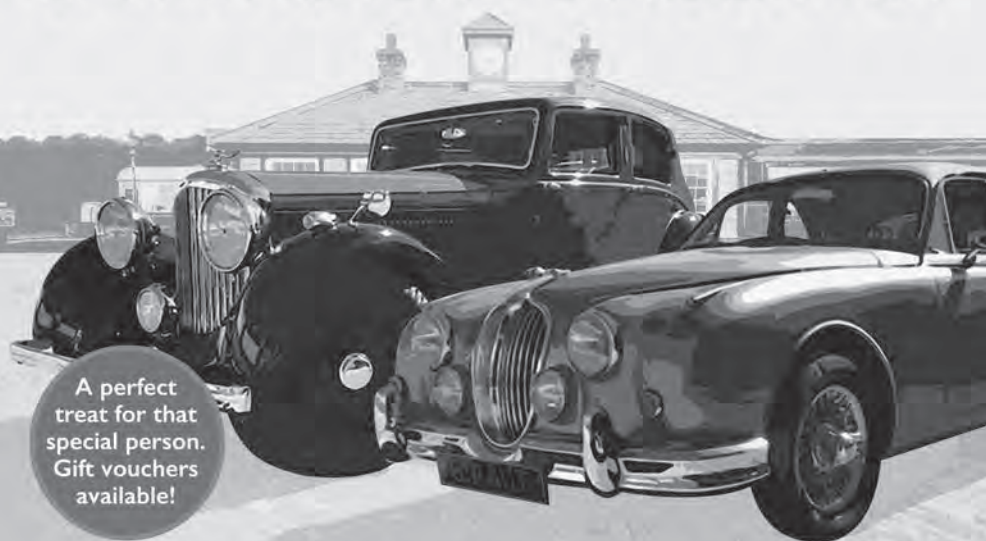
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GARDENING

IN YOUR WINTER GARDEN

By the time that you are reading this, we will be staring into December, and the short days and long evenings that mean winter. Don't be gloomy though; you can still potter about in your garden. Keep clearing the leaves from your lawn, which needs light and a bit of TLC after the hot summer that we've had. I use the lawn mower set high to collect mine, though I do give it a rake over to get out the moss and thatch. Collect the leaves in a plastic bag, water them (they need to be moist) punch a few small holes for drainage, and store somewhere out of the way for free leaf mould mulch next year.

Tidying the garden generally is a good idea, though, if you can, leave a few piles of debris about. Insects will be hiding in them, and if you're lucky, you may find you also have a sleepy hedgehog. Leave flowering ivy, if you can bear it, for the few insects about that need to feed when little else is flowering. On the subject of flowering, if you want a scented winter garden, winter box, winter honeysuckle, eleagnus and some of the viburnum family, to name but a few, will give you scent and tiny flowers from October through to February.

To provide colour and interest in the dark months, prepare pots with winter flowering plants.

Ornamental cabbages are pretty good; the frost makes their colours really deep. Try grouping them in a pot with skimmia, which has flower buds that look

interesting, and provide pretty white scented blooms in the spring. Solanum with its red berries is also pretty good. They're tougher than you think. We've made them survive through winter outside. Add a few bulbs, and you've a miniature garden that will give you something to admire all winter. At a garden centre or local market you can find small conifers with varying shapes and colour, small flowering shrubs and winter flowering plants such as polyanthus and pansy. Leave the conifers in their pots when you plant them, which restricts the roots and stops them from bushing out. Remember to raise pots on small feet, so that they drain properly. It will protect them from frost. Mostly!

Finally, Christmas: a couple of thoughts, based on our own experience.

Christmas trees – if you're having a real one, it's worth buying the type that don't drop needles. Stand cut ones in a holder that will allow you to water the tree. They still take up water, even without roots. A dry tree is an unhappy tree. Put the tree as far away from a source of heat as you can get.

House plants – they mainly like the cool. If you want to keep the leaves on your poinsettia, keep it in a cool, light and airy place. Central heating is the main cause of leaf drop. Mist plants occasionally to stop them from drying out.

Ken Ellis

Cottenham Gardeners' Club



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FEN EDGE GROUPS

FEN EDGE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Continuing the 20th Anniversary Celebrations

Following our successful visit in May to our twinning town Avrillé, 40 French guests arrived on Thursday 1st November. As is customary, the French party divided into small groups to be hosted by Fen Edge families. Everyone took advantage of a sunny Friday to show



their guests around our area. Entertainment for the evening was a Ceilidh Dance – a memorable time of great fun and laughter enjoyed by all as shown below. There was more sunny free time on Saturday. Some of the French enjoyed an official tour of Cambridge including a much appreciated tour of Pembroke College. In the evening, many joined together for a moving concert of wartime music and songs led by Cottenham Brass Band, along with 'Singers for Fun'. Alternatively some chose to visit local firework parties.

Our French guests headed home on Sunday. All who participated had either renewed existing friendships or made new ones. Our next visit to Avrillé will be 24th to 28th May 2019.

If you are interested in taking part as a singleton, a couple, a family or as part of a local group, please contact Julia Gwilt (juliagwilt@gmail.com) or Kit Kilgour (kitkilgour@yahoo.co.uk).



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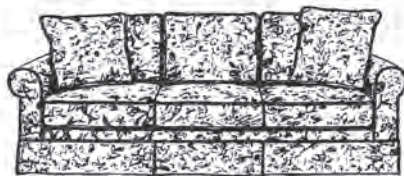
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FEN EDGE GROUPS

TYRANNOCHORUS

West Road Concert

Cottenham's TyrannoChorus marked the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice with a big concert at Cambridge's West Road Concert Hall on Friday 9th November. Some of the items had been in the pipeline since November 2016, when the choirs performed a remembrance concert at All Saints' Church, Cottenham.

Three Cottenham choirs were joined by the Cambridgeshire Caledonian Pipe Band, Harston and Newton School Choir, Haslingfield Endowed Primary School Choir and the Saffron Building Society Community Choir. Also singing was soloist and instrumentalist Patrick Coughlan, a Warrant Officer class 2, serving with the Cambridge University Officers' Training Corps, having previously served on tours of Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. To complete the massed array of musicians, an all-female French horn ensemble, Cor 8, also took to the stage. The entire line-up was directed by choir director Siobhan Lihoreau, with a programme of music befitting the occasion: some old favourites, some modern favourites and one World Premiere, *The Song to the Unknown Warrior*.

Pride of place on stage amidst the 150 or more performers were two Tommies, part of the There But Not There project. Profits were donated to their "Remembered Network" of charities, which includes Help for Heroes, Walking with the Wounded and the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation.

ROTARY CAR PARKING IN CAMBRIDGE THIS CHRISTMAS

The Rotary Good Causes car parking, at the University Downing Site, Department of Chemistry and, we hope, a former Cambridge Assessment Centre on Harvey Road (off Hills Road) will start on Saturday December 1st for Christmas shoppers to use the 3 car parks. I am delighted to say that last year we raised over £40,000 for charities and Rotary good causes.

The Rotary club of Cambridge South, and lots of friends, will man the 3 car parks for 5 weekends until December 30th, plus December 27th-28th. There will be a "charge" of just £7 for as long as needed within car park opening hours.

The car parks are at Harvey Road, off Hills Road; Chemistry block on Lensfield Road; and the Downing

Site on Tennis Court Road (the pedestrian exit from this car park is on Downing Street nearly opposite John Lewis). This last one is open until 7pm so is also good for the Panto matinee. Please help us to raise a large amount by looking out for the Rotary car park signs (kindly being printed by Screens & Graphics in Cottenham) bearing the "Rotary Wheel".

This may also benefit Cambridge "High Street" traders by providing them with more, less-rushed shoppers with more money to spend! More information available at www.cambridge-southrotary.org.uk



More volunteers are needed to help for slots of 2.5 hours (250 slots in all over 3 car parks over 12 days) – if you would like to help (with one or more slots – and full guidance will be given), and raise much needed cash for charities, please contact me at smithmichaelstanley@hotmail.com

Please also see the website if you would like to know more about Rotary – whose motto is "Service above Self". An International project is the elimination of Polio world-wide. Our club meets on Mondays (except on bank holidays) at 5.45pm for 6.15pm at the Arundel Hotel, Chesterton Road with some great speakers. New members are very welcome.

As well as fundraising for other charities, we run, amongst many other things, a monthly memory café at Girton, an annual football tournament for the homeless, Peace events for 6th formers at 6-7 schools and we support a school for Maasai children in Tanzania.

We wish you all a happy, relaxed and an especially Peaceful Christmas.

Mike Smith

Rotary Club of Cambridge South



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FEN EDGE GROUPS

ROTARY PEACE DEBATE AND SCHOOL VISITS

Editor's note, the Rotary Club of Cambridge South is FECA's newest member, represented through the Cambridge Business Forum, which meets in Waterbeach.

Rotary has always been very interested in working with young people and in promoting Peace. We toast "Rotary and Peace the World over" at the end of our meetings. Some years ago, Rotary (Internationally) started to sponsor about 60 young people annually to study Peace for a Master's degree at a number of universities around the World. This initiative includes about 10 a year in the UK at the University of Bradford, which was the first UK university to set up a Peace studies department. The Master's course is for 15 months with a *Period of Applied Field* experience included. The scholars must have three years of previous experience in peace-related work.

In 2011, at a *Rotary in Britain and Ireland* annual conference (held in Dublin that year), we heard a talk from Jeremy Gilley about *Peace One Day* (www.peaceoneday.org). This meeting is held annually on 21st September. In 2001 this date was adopted by the UN as International Peace Day.

It inspired us to think what we could do in Cambridge. We consulted schools and the then Head of Hills Road Sixth Form College suggested a debate for 6th formers. We have, since 2012, been holding a 6th form debate for six teams of three (see photo). This October the debate winners were The Leys school, our very generous hosts. We have been very fortunate in having a Peace scholar come each year from Bradford. This year Lydia Kroeger from Germany inspired students by speaking at 5 schools about refugees, with reference to the Greek island of Lesbos (Lesbos) where she has been working this summer. Another Peace graduate from Bradford is just starting a



Leon Cambray from Cottenham, member of the Parkside team, makes his case

PhD in *Peace and Conflict* projects at the University of Cambridge.

Contact: For more information about this topic, the Cambridge Business Forum, or Rotary, please have a look at our website www.cambridge-southrotary.org.uk or email smithmichaelstanley@hotmail.com



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FEN EDGE GROUPS

FEN EDGE ORCHESTRA

FEO is a friendly, community orchestra whose current members come from across South Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Suffolk. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings in term time, at Cottenham Village College.

A highlight from last term was our concert in July, when we were delighted to return to All Saints' Church, Cottenham, to be one of the first groups to use the lovely, newly-refurbished space in the church. Our summer programme included Borodin's *In the Steppes of Central Asia*, and Haydn's *Symphony 103 (Drumroll)*, and the retiring collection was in aid of All Saints' Church.

Rehearsals are in full swing again as we prepare our new repertoire for the coming year.

We are always on the lookout for new members; we don't hold auditions but, if we have places available, we will invite you to come along to our

next rehearsal to try us out. There may be a waiting list for some instruments, but we never know when a place may become available, so please do get in touch if you are interested. At the moment, we are particularly keen to recruit another trumpet, and we have space for violins and violas.

The next opportunity to see us will be our upcoming concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 9th February, at Histon Baptist Church. We also hope to be appearing at the Fen Edge Festival in Cottenham in June, and we will be returning to All Saints' Church in Cottenham for our summer concert on Saturday 13th July.

Entry to our concerts is free, and we generally have a retiring collection for charity.

For further information about the orchestra, joining us, and for more details of our concerts (which will be made available closer to the time), please visit our website:

www.fenedgeorchestra.wordpress.com



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