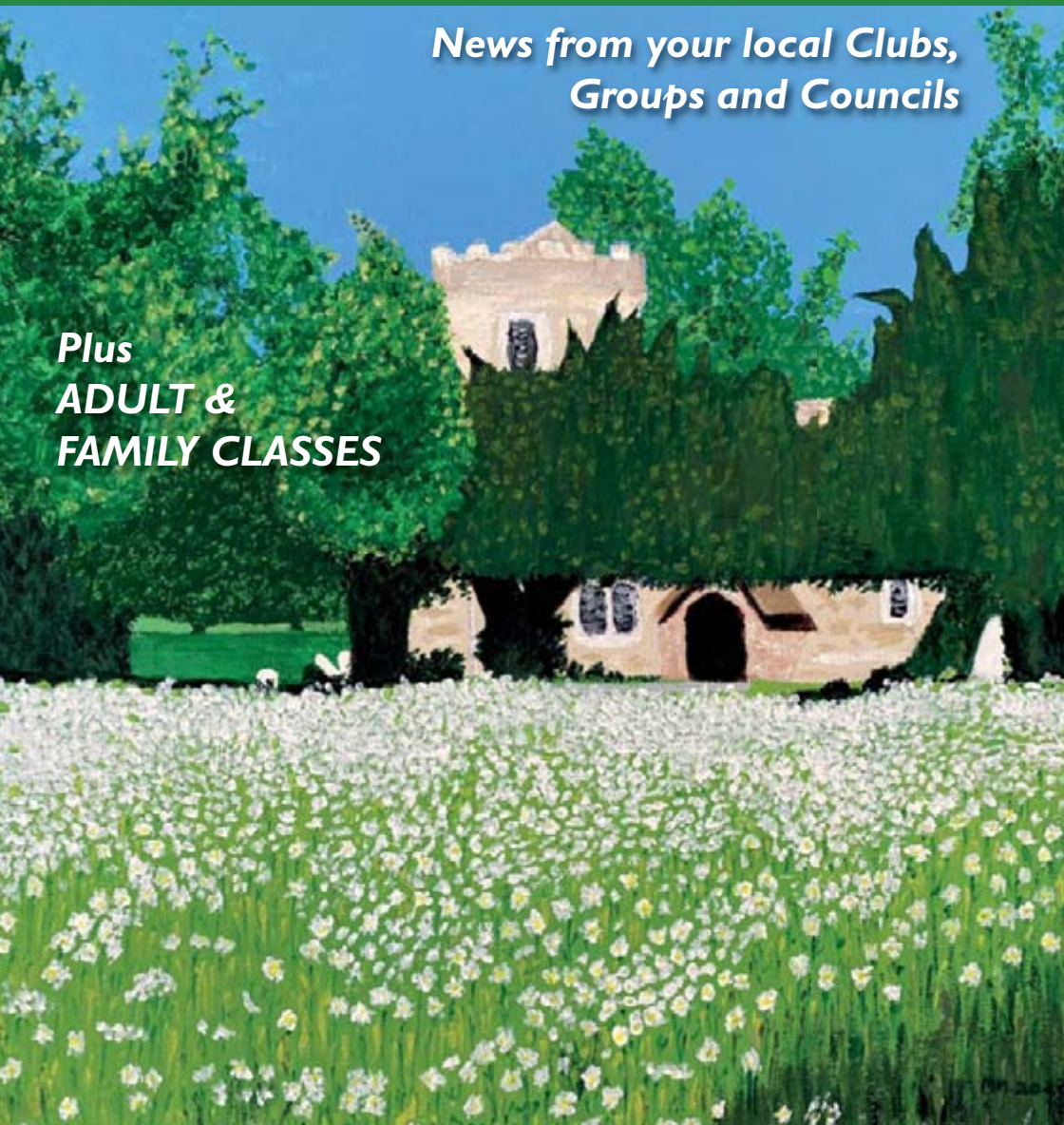


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Registered Charity No. **293020**

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



I trust you are all safe and well; I hope you enjoy this Fen Edge News and it reminds you of all the great things our villages have to offer. Like many organisations the Fen Edge Community Association (FECA) has transitioned

successfully to Zoom meetings. The AGM went ahead on 14 May and the Members voted to adopt a new Constitution as well as appoint officers and trustees. The only real difference was the lack of refreshments and nibbles that are usually part of the meeting – it was very much BYO!

This year has been an immensely frustrating and difficult time for community groups and associations. Various events such as the Fun Run have been cancelled which is very disappointing for the people who have put so much into the organisation. But we have also seen the importance of community groups in keeping people connected and our member groups will have an especially important role in restoring some of the regular activities and community aspects of life in our villages.

The big news for this report is that we have decided to commit to a Fen Edge Festival in June 2021. I know a lot of people are already looking forward to the event as one that will mark the community coming together in a reassuringly familiar format. That is the aim. A lot of planning and work will now have to take place against the back-drop of continued uncertainty about the Covid-19 situation. In that context, I would like to put out a general plea for anyone who would like

to be part of the Organising Committee to step forward. It is a great team and it is very rewarding to be part of a group that is committed to giving back to the community. Please let me know if you are interested via chair@fenedge.co.uk. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone from Willingham, Landbeach, Rampton and Waterbeach to ensure that those villages are represented and included, and anyone who has any particular skills or passions that could be useful.

Lastly, I want to express my thanks for the ongoing work and support of the Committee. It is a very effective team. Despite the obvious challenges, the year has been a very satisfying one for FECA. We have again grown our membership. We now have 70 member organisations (which compares to 61 this time last year). The work on the Fen Edge News, Facebook pages and website means that FECA is able to promote Members' activities and provide useful information to the community. We are very pleased to be able to support a number of groups and charities with grants this year. We funded grants with a value of £8,462 with several more significant projects in the pipeline.

Thank you for your support.

Neil Gough, Chair

FROM THE TREASURER

History has shown that in times of crisis people pull together, and it's been amazing to see examples of that happening now within our communities: people helping others where they can, shopping for elderly neighbours, helping the isolated stay connected and by rallying together to support businesses who are trying to stay afloat in uncertain times.

The importance of supporting your local shops, trades and services is so important right now. Your support of local businesses means you're helping a family and maintaining your community. On that note, I'd like to publicly thank our many advertisers for their continued support – we couldn't produce the Fen Edge News without them.

Bob Turner, Treasurer

EDITORIAL/FECA IN COTTENHAM

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Please visit our online calendar (fenedge.co.uk/events-calendar/) for the most up-to-date events information. Member organizations are welcome to send events to me to go in this calendar at any time.

Gentle readers, this edition has been delayed by about a month from its normal schedule. That delay allowed the adult education pages (see the centre) to be included, albeit reduced in size. As I couldn't predict the response from organizations that are not meeting for the foreseeable future, I also asked for and received contributions that give some insight into their background or history.

I hope you enjoy this edition's mix of the usual and unusual!

Adrian Stephens, editor@fenedge.co.uk

COTTENHAM GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS

We hope you are all well. It's a strange time as we should have enjoyed pack holidays and summer camps, said goodbye and hello to girls, been grateful it is the end of term and ready for the summer break. Sadly, we have had none of those.

Guiding will return – we don't know when and quite how, but we will and when we do, we will all pull together to make it happen.

COTTENHAM CHARITIES

Grants for household and disability items Cottenham Charities provides accommodation in 7 almshouses, manages the allotments in the village and gives grants to those in need.

We have funds available for low-income and disabled Cottenham residents for household and disability items.

Applications can be considered throughout the year. During the last year grants have been given to repair a stair lift, purchase a mobility scooter, provide replacement carpeting and flooring, and replace various kitchen appliances that families would not otherwise have been able to afford—including a fridge, a cooker, a washing machine and a freezer.

Cottenham Charities can also give support to elderly frail residents who would like the assurance of a Community Lifeline alarm but are put off by the cost of installing and renting the system.

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH COTTENHAM WITH RAMPTON

At All Saints' we understand that life has been different during lockdown. We know that even during these difficult times, a child still arrives, a marriage can begin or a life may end. We are still here for you in your community; so if you would like to give thanks for the safe arrival of a new baby, a new commitment in marriage or to give thanks for the life of someone who has died, just

ask. Ring Revd. Lynda Davies 01954 583651 and we will ensure you can still mark these life events in a special way.

We are still working towards how we can safely reopen the church for normal services, but in the meantime, why not pop down for some private prayer or fulfil your spiritual needs by following our online services? For more information either go to our website www.allsaintscottenham.org.uk or follow us on Facebook.

COTTENHAM COLTS FC



Under 18 team

As this is written, the club continues in lockdown. Despite a relaxation of training guidelines by the FA, we have decided not to restart just yet.

Having ceased all activity in March, we reflect on another successful Colts season. This season saw our first ever under-18 (U18) side compete in the A league. An U7 team led by Simon Rose had a real chance of winning the league, but events took over. Despite this, we hope that this team will become our stepping stone and transition pathway into adult teams.

Our popular Monday night Soccer School continues to flourish. Our girls-only FA Wildcats programme is now bearing fruit resulting in our new U12 and U9 girls' teams. We have 2



Cottenham girls currently attending the FA/Cambridgeshire FA Advanced Coaching Centre for Girls (entry level pathway to England youth and senior female sides); and expect 2 more of our Wildcats about to follow suit.

All our teams from U18 down to U7 continue to represent the village. We thank all our coaches and parents for their hard work across the season. Sadly, due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our renowned annual 5-a-side tournament which, not only is feast of football, but is also our major fundraising event of the year. The club has been hit financially too and we are working to recoup these losses via grants from national sporting bodies. On a positive, the club was one of the first in Cambridgeshire to pass its Annual FA Charter Standard Health-check to confirm we offer the highest standards of football, coaching, and safeguarding assurance. A number of coaches have taken part in many learning webinars during

lockdown, including online mental health courses. We thank all our current generous sponsors with special mention to Cottenham Co-op for their fantastic spend and reward scheme. Any business interested in sponsoring us would be greatly appreciated. We would love to hear from any new players, male or female, who are interested in joining us.

David Burkett, Lead Coach, Email d.burkett07@icloud.com Mobile 07512 245443, Facebook "CottenhamUnitedColts"

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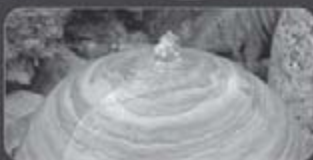


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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

We are a family church situated on the High Street in Cottenham. We normally meet in the building every Sunday at 10.30am, but due to the current situation we have been meeting on Zoom each week at this time instead. We welcome people to join us and for more details of how to join on Zoom, any changes to our meeting, or if you need help or prayer please go to our website (www.cottenhambaptist.org.uk), find us on Facebook or call us on 01954 252378. We continue to run the foodbank every Wednesday from 1.30pm–2.30pm. If you need to use this facility please bring a red voucher along with you, and come with a facemask as these will need to be worn while picking up food.

COTTENHAM CARECAR

At the time of writing (mid-July), we are only able to do urgent medical journeys, such as to Accident and Emergency and Local Doctors.

With 80% of our drivers being over 70, and still locked down, we are left with just 4 drivers able to assist, subject to strict Covid precautions. This situation is unlikely to change before early next year at the best.

From 12 March this year, when everything closed down, we have had no requests for help from our client list whatsoever; it seems they are all very sensible and compliant people.

Anyone with new a Hospital or Doctor's appointment should contact us on 07731 639799 and we will always see what we can do. Do not call if you have Covid-19 symptoms.

Anyone who wants to know about volunteering is also very welcome to call!!

COTTENHAM COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

We aim to build locally-affordable homes around Cottenham village. To be locally-affordable they have to cost their occupiers no more than 3 or 4 times their household income, not the 6 to 8 times required by the 'affordable' homes being built in the village.

It is a challenge, requiring co-operation of the land-owner, architects, developers, builders and government to make the finances work. We thought we had our first scheme ready to run late last year but some technical difficulties drove the costs out of our reach and invalidated our grant from Homes England.

Then, Covid-19 changed everything for many of us; although Cottenham's low population density, good housing and access to the countryside has helped us avoid the traumatic experience of many less fortunate. Maybe we can make that opportunity available to more.

We have new exciting possibilities we hope to move forward later this year, especially if the government reinstates or extends funds for community-led housing through Homes England, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and others.

We wish Simon Oliver, who joined us as a Trustee last year but has had to step down, success in his new challenge in Ireland.

Keep up to date via our Facebook page - Cottenham Community Land Trust.

Or drop us a line at admin@cottenhamclt.org.uk

FIRS HOUSE AND TELEGRAPH STREET PPG

It seems a long time since we last met as a PPG (Patient Participation Group), at the beginning of March. The world has changed for us all with the spread of Covid-19 and we have all had to re-adjust to a different way of life. For us as a PPG, it has meant that we will not be organising any community health information events for the time being, even though Government guidelines on social distancing are gradually being eased.

Although we have not been able to meet as a group in the usual way, we have kept in touch with the Practice via shorter monthly Zoom meetings with a senior GP Partner and the Practice Manager.

If there are any matters you would like us to include in our virtual PPG meetings, or you have any comments or queries, you can contact us by emailing: ppgfirshouse@gmail.com. In the meantime, stay well and stay safe.

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM UNITED FC

When the coronavirus brought a premature end to the 2019/20 fixtures, with as many as one third of the games remaining, Cottenham United's 1st team were enjoying their best season for quite a few years. The new management team of Chris Hancock and Carl Thurlbourne had really got the squad motivated, playing with grit and determination. The final, points-per-game based table saw them finish in seventh position in Kershaw Senior A, but well placed to move several places higher. During Luke Cox's final term in charge, our Reserves had a much tougher time, but finished safe from the drop in eleventh in Mead Plant & Grab 3A. We are hoping the side will continue to progress under the new leadership team of Harry West, Adam Phillips and Martin Carter.

At the time of writing, the Covid-19 rules have eased to allow full-squad, competitive training and pre-season friendly games in August. The League programme is scheduled to start on Saturday 5 September for the 1st team and Saturday 12 September for the Reserves so let's hope no further spikes arise to jeopardize all these plans.

Training sessions for both squads are taking place weekly, 6.30–8.00pm, Mondays and Wednesdays on the far field at the Recreation Ground, off Lambs Lane. Please do come along if you are interested in playing – you'll be assured of a warm and friendly reception.

Please contact us by email at cottenhamunitedfc@hotmail.com, by using the twitter accounts [@cottenham_fc](https://twitter.com/cottenham_fc) or [@chrishancock7](https://twitter.com/chrishancock7) or via the following email addresses:

1st team: Chris Hancock
chris.hancock@cheffins.co.uk

Reserves: Harry West Hwest0235@gmail.com

Also, if any individuals or businesses would like to support us by getting involved with sponsorship, again please email or tweet Stuart Baker squeezefootball@gmail.com, [@squeezefootball](https://twitter.com/squeezefootball).

Club Website:

www.pitchero.com/clubs/cottenhamunited

COTTENHAM CRICKET CLUB

Well, what a dreadful Spring and Summer this has been in so many ways! After England's fantastic World Cup victory last year, which had such a thrilling finish at Lord's, and then an exciting Ashes series that provided an amazing Ben Stokes winning innings at Headingley, this was going to be the Summer when we were anticipating that both young and old(er) would have been really enthused to either start playing, or re-engage with, our wonderful game.

Sadly, of course, it wasn't to be. The pandemic scuppered all our pre-season plans for both our junior and senior teams; all our subsequent League and Cup fixtures were cancelled. It was such a massive disappointment for us all at the Club. As I write, with the Covid-19 rules relaxing somewhat, the Cambridgeshire Cricket Association has arranged a handful of games for our 1st XI in August. It will not be cricket as we know it – including ball cleaning every 20 minutes, social distancing, batsmen running in defined areas, no teas provided – but at least it's something. Even so, there are so many other logistical challenges hosting these matches that it remains to be seen how many will actually happen!

We must wish our scientists, world-wide, the very, very best of luck in finding a safe and effective treatment for this virus so that, keeping everything crossed, we can look forward to things returning to, something like normality in 2021. Let's hope so.

It has been very strange watching Test cricket on TV with the players emerging from their Covid-tested bubbles to play in front of empty stadiums. Despite this, the cricket has been exciting to watch and it's good to see the West Indies on the up again. With Pakistan to come, it should continue to be fun.

So here at Cottenham CC, we are now looking forward to next year. We will, as ever, be looking to run both junior and senior sides and are always delighted to welcome new players. If you are interested in getting involved, do please contact the Club to check out what's happening. Also, if you're new to the village, or just wanting to play more locally, we'll be equally delighted to hear from you. Please just get in touch and keep an eye on our website. Stay safe everyone.

Contacts: Email: cottenhamcc@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary: David Chaplin (01954 250075)

Chairman: Ralph Lamble (01954 250313)

Junior Teams Coordinators: Dave Partridge (01954 203210) and Alan Raven (01954 250388)

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

SUSTAINABLE COTTENHAM

Cut down your food waste – it's a win, win

Reducing food waste saves money and is one of the most effective ways we can cut our carbon emissions and combat climate change.

One positive knock-on effect of the lockdown has been that people across the UK have been managing their food better, cutting the throwing-out of the most wasted foods (potatoes, bread, chicken and milk) by over a third [WRAP survey April 2020].

Food waste challenge – But we need to do better! October will see the launch of South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge Sustainable Food's food waste challenge. There will be online cookery workshops, recipes, talks and storytelling, and support for you and your family to reduce your food waste. You'll be guided through how to measure your food waste and your food footprint, together with introductions to some top local chefs, their favourite recipes and tips for reducing food waste.

Sustainable Cottenham ECO EATS is partnered with CSF's year-long Food for Our Future campaign to reduce all aspects of our carbon food-prints. Watch our website for updates on the food waste challenge

www.sustainablecottenham.org.uk

Go to our website too to check out our growing Eco Eats resource of tips and recipes. More contributions of planet friendly food ideas welcome - send us yours! Email to chris@sustainablecottenham.org.uk

How to prevent food waste, tips & recipes –

from Lucy Robinson, Chef, Stickies Pop-up Cafe
I've always been a bit neurotic about not wasting food, but the recent lockdown life change has made this even more crucial.

Start out by sorting your freezer. Clean it out and make a plan of when you will eat up the



contents. If you have a chest freezer write a list of what's in it. You may find you can live off the contents for the next month! From now on try to only freeze things in portion sizes that will feed your family rather than over-filling and having to throw away anything at the end of the meal.

During lockdown, when the fridge was full up after a big food shop, I was constantly checking what was in my fridge and how long I had on 'best before' dates to make sure nothing would be left to go off. Menu plans are good but be flexible. If something needs eating up tomorrow then swap meals around so nothing goes in the bin.

Here are just a few ideas to use leftovers. A lentil curry works fantastically as a flavoursome base, can take all sorts of different vegetables and also freezes well. Add your root vegetables at the beginning of cooking with spices and add your green vegetables at the end.

We have an 'ifit' meal about once a fortnight.

This is the name my partner calls a dish of leftovers. If it's in the fridge it's going in! Usually a pasta sauce with slow cooked tomatoes, onion, garlic and rosemary, grated courgette and any leftover roasted vegetables. It usually turns out so good that he complains I haven't written down the recipe!

Bananas are my favourite use-up food. When the skins go brown, I always slice them onto a tray lined with parchment and put them in the freezer. When they're frozen solid, peel them off and bag up ready to use. They make the creamiest, healthy ice cream, blended up with a little cacao powder, cinnamon and oat milk. Find the recipe here: www.sustainablecottenham.org.uk/eco-eats

Parsley, mint and hazelnuts make a delicious pesto. Also try using rocket in pesto to replace some of the basil. Pesto is great to add to kids' meals for a quick flavour boost. Stir it into leftover couscous, rice or quinoa. Add a little oil to your pesto to use as a salad dressing.

There are just so many ideas and variations, the list is endless, but try to get creative with your leftovers and please don't waste anything.

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM GARDENERS' CLUB

Like almost everything else, gardening club activities were shut down in March. This meant that our last meeting was the AGM at the end of February, when we were looking forward to a year of new speakers and outings. It now seems likely that the club will not resume this year, so we hope that the programme can simply be put back by a year – a pleasure deferred!

Members of the gardening club maintain the gardens at Cottenham Library and the Community Centre, but with the closure of these buildings and the lockdown this too ceased. By the time the Library called to ask for the grass to be mown, it was looking rather beautiful – full of wildflowers and buzzing insects! It will be a while before work parties get back to normal and these gardens are fully tended.

As someone with a garden, I felt very lucky to have it during lockdown. We also have a vegetable plot, like an allotment, nearby, and were able to disappear there for exercise and variety. Both spaces are looking better than they ever have! While it was closed, Oakington Garden Centre delivered compost, which enabled me to carry out projects always intended, but neglected until now.

Many people have increased their gardening activities during lockdown; some may have started gardening for the first time. At the gardening club we are hoping to welcome some new members to our meetings once they start again. As soon as decisions are made, we will let everyone know all the club details, and dates of meetings. Rest assured that any subscriptions paid at the AGM will be carried forward to next year. In the meantime, I hope you can enjoy your gardens and the countryside. We look forward to seeing everyone as soon as we are able.

For any further information please contact Sarah Dumont, Tel: 01954 260482

THE COTTENHAM CLUB

The Cottenham Club is open Friday and Saturday evenings from 7.30pm.

Due to the current Covid-19 regulations, we have arranged the seating areas to maintain social distancing, hand sanitiser is available and we ask all visitors to provide their name and telephone number for 'track and trace' purposes.

Non-members are welcome, however, when busy, members will take priority because we have a limit of 40 people. Drinks are reasonably priced and the bar is cash or card. We have seating in the beer garden at the back of the Club.

Please come along and enjoy an evening with us. Check our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/thecottenhamclub) for planned events and changes to our opening hours.

198 High Street, Cottenham, Cambridge CB24 8RX

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE

Think globally, act locally could be a maxim for many community groups. As the newest group in the Fen Edge Community Association, Cycling without Age Cottenham is very much aware of its global links and we plan to get active within our local community.

Our group will offer cycle rides with an intergenerational connection to older people in the area around Cottenham. Covid-19 put the brakes on our start-up plans. But since late May, we have been meeting virtually to adapt to the situation we are in, drawing inspiration from the ways Cycling without Age groups around the world have found ways to resume their activity.

Cycling without Age started in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2012, and uses specially built cycle rickshaws (trishaws) operated by volunteer pilots to give rides to older people in and around their local community. The trishaws are motor assisted, the speeds are gentle, and the pilots are encouraged to develop conversation as well as allowing their passengers to feel the wind in their hair.

The Cycling without Age movement operates in 50 countries with 2,200 local chapters each operating independently. Cycling without Age Cottenham was formally established as a voluntary organisation in February this year. We welcome help and interest from all sections of the community, as there are many aspects to the work.

Once we have funded and purchased our trishaw, we will be seeking to recruit and train pilots, focusing on safety and the distinctive conversational ethos of the movement. If you would like to help with any aspect of this, please get in touch by email (graham@cyclingwithoutage.org.uk) or via our Facebook page (CWACCambridgeUK). Follow us on Facebook for details of any events.

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM VILLAGE SOCIETY

Local shops then and now

During the last few months of lockdown we have come to rely on our local shops more as well as deliveries to our doorstep. Even as far back as medieval times there would be a few local people who provided items that the rest of the villagers did not make themselves: smith, carpenter, tailor and baker. In the early 19th century few shops existed in villages. Most villagers relied as much as they could on their own produce. Those with allotments sold or swapped their surplus food; some labourers would buy produce direct from the farms. In Cottenham there were many farmers; some of their produce would be sold in Cambridge. The villagers relied on travellers and pedlars who came to the village for things like cloth and household necessities, fancy goods, crockery and pots. There were tinkers who called to repair pans and sharpen knives and scissors

By the mid-19th century, grocer's shops began to appear in larger villages; included in their stock was tea, coffee and sugar – luxury items. They also carried non-perishable food stuff and household goods. In 1851 Cottenham Supply Stores was open on the corner of Lambs Lane. In 1901 the owner stocked many household goods including mangles and bath tubs. It became a drapery store for many years, then a car show room, closing in 1990. In the late 19th century Cottenham had bakers and butchers who delivered their goods to your door. The village had a cobbler, dressmaker, tailor, carpenter, blacksmith and possibly bricklayer. Cottenham had its own brickworks for a short while.

In the early 20th century more shops appeared in Cottenham. There was a laundry at Green End between 1909 and 1916. Mr and Mrs Thoday had a grocer shop by the green, which burnt down in 1931. They made their own fizzy drinks. Bennet harness makers had their business in the High Street for more than four generations. Badcock's grocery shop in Corbett Street started just after the First World War. They were still delivering locally up to the beginning of the 1960s.

In 1916 (according to Kelly's directory) there were 4 butchers, 5 grocers, a furniture dealer, 3 boot and shoemakers or repairers, 2 plumbers, 3 blacksmiths, a dairyman, hairdresser, 3 bakers, 2 watchmakers, basketmaker, blacksmith, photographer, 2 shopkeepers one of whom baked, a builder, a printer who was a general contractor for painting, building and carpentry. However, the main traders of the village are reflected in the number of farmers and market gardeners advertising in the commercial section. Mr Coles the baker was operating in 1916 and his family were still delivering bread in the early 1960s. In 1916 Mr Ingle advertised in Kelly's directory as a carpenter, builder, undertaker and wheelwright. His business was started by his forebears in the 1830s. Mr Haird was a cycle maker and repairer in 1916; this later became a garage with the evolution of the motor car. Murfitt's the watchmaker was in the High Street from 1846 to 1920s.

One of the shops still existing is the Co-op which has been on its present site (though not the same building) since 1905, when it took over the business of James Male. Cottenham has had a post office since 1843 moving to various places in the High Street, sometimes in shops selling other goods, as it does today. In 1916, Mr Holdgate ran the post office and was the chemist in the same building. The chemist's shop then moved to its present site where previous pharmacists have been Cyril Hills and Ronald Macbeth. Cottenham Library has move from various places. It used to be in the old school in Margett Street, then into Cottenham Village College and finally back to Margett Street in a new building. At one time books could be borrowed for a small fee from the Ideal Library in the High Street where the fish and chip shop is now sited. Nibby Carter's sweets and tobacconist shop in the 1950s is now Costcutter. Shaun's newsagent has been a newsagent since at least the early 20th century. We still have a butchers run by the Gawthroup family and Barkers bake and sell in the village.

Glynis Pilbeam – Cottenham Village Society
cottenhamvillagesociety.wordpress.com



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FECA IN COTTENHAM



COFFEE SHOP REOPENS

The Cottenham Community Centre Coffee Shop will be re-opening on Monday 7 September with a great menu and new timetable, and thanks to the hard work of trustees and staff. There will be new Covid-19 arrangements in place; your patience will be much appreciated when we reopen.

The Coffee Shop will initially be open from 10am–1pm Monday to Friday. Once we are comfortable with our new procedures and set up, we will add Saturday opening times. Please keep a close eye on the website or Facebook page for more details. We are also hoping that a few functions will take place in the Community Centre before then, such as knitting group meetings and the Community Cinema will show its first film of the season on Sunday 23 August.

The new normal —The Coffee Shop will look and feel quite different and, subject to changing Government advice, there will be fewer tables and chairs available for our customers as we all follow the Social Distancing Rules. Entry to the Coffee Shop will be only through the door at the top of the slope to the side of the Centre, not up the steps at the front of the Community Centre; there will be hand sanitiser stations to use on entry. You will be met by a member of the team who will take a lead name and contact details for "track-and-trace" purposes and give you a table number. A clearly marked one-way system will be in place. Orders will be taken at the till point, as usual, you should then move to your table and your order will be served to you there. Contactless card payment will be preferred over cash.

The Coffee Shop will also be offering takeaway orders; you will be required to stand in a designated area and to wear a face mask while waiting for your order to be filled. To reserve a table or to place a takeaway order you can call us on 01954 202109 during opening hours only.

EVENTS

Community Cinema – Sundays 23 August, 13 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December
Films starts at 7.30pm each time.

Funds and membership – We still have significant overheads and increased costs while our income for this

year will be lower because of the closure. We welcome your support and suggest that you become a member of the Community Centre. Your membership card will make the contact details process much quicker on entry.

Membership is just £10 for an individual with a loyalty bonus of a free beverage after you have bought ten drinks. You will also get a 10% discount on one-off room hire. Please download a membership form here:

www.cottenhamcc.org/membership/

Volunteers – We will need more Volunteers. Please consider becoming part of the team at the Coffee Shop, meet people and improve your skills. Weekly or less regular volunteers welcomed. Come and have a chat with Jane, our manager Tel: 01954 202109 or manager@cottenhamcc.org

Classes – We hope that some of our classes will also re-commence in early September. Of course, social distancing and clean equipment and hand sanitisation etc will be needed. Many classes may be at the same time as before, but some will be at a slightly different time so do check with the class leader first.

For details of our many classes for young and old alike on each day and evening, see "classes" on our website www.cottenhamcc.org/classes/ (where you will find times and contact details) or under "Function Rooms", then refer to the room (hall, studio or coffee shop) booking calendars to see if they are taking place at the moment and if so at what time. Some classes have spaces and there may be some new classes.

Room Hire – There are three rooms (main hall, studio, coffee shop) for hire (Covid-19 restrictions apply) for running a class, activity or party. Full food catering and/or a bar may be possible. The hall is also great for businesses to use for training or meetings. Full entertainment licence held. 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.

For other enquiries visit www.cottenhamcc.org or email: bookings@cottenhamcc.org

Please do not come to the Community Centre if you feel at all unwell.

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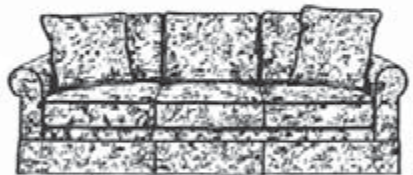
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FECA IN LANDBEACH



LANDBEACH TITHE BARN TRUST

Why is the Tithe Barn so special?

Tithe Barns are increasingly rare in the UK and this is one of just a handful of buildings of its type remaining in Cambridgeshire. The Tithe Barn in Landbeach is unique with so many historic features such as a thatched roof, elm timber frame, timber granary and brick threshing floor. Experts believe the barn may well date to the medieval period.



The Tithe Barn Trust is a small charity which protects and cares for the Tithe Barn. We receive no government funding. It costs £19 per day to run and maintain the listed Tithe Barn. The Tithe Barn Trust's mission is 'Ensuring the long-term survival of the rare and ancient Tithe Barn, by breathing new life into the site, for everyone to enjoy.'

We need your help to continue. Become a Friend of the Tithe Barn Trust today. In return, you will receive an invitation to events each year, regular E-newsletters and discounted Barn hire. Your membership will help protect and maintain this special Grade II listed Tithe Barn.

Visit www.tithebarntrust.org.uk/join-get-involved/become-a-member/ to find out more.

Looking for a unique location?

Did you know that you can hire the Tithe Barn for a private event, such as a small gathering? Originally a rustic farm building, the Barn now makes a charming historic venue set in a secluded location.

Get in touch to find out more at www.tithebarntrust.org.uk/venue-hire/weddings-and-special-events

Upcoming Tithe Barn Events

Our Tithe Barn events range from Picnics to Outdoor Gym, so there really is something for everyone. Come along and see the unique Tithe Barn for yourself. We are closely following Government advice regarding Covid-19, so please do check www.tithebarntrust.org.uk/learning/2020-events/ regularly for updates.

Saturday 19 September, 11am–5pm

Heritage Open Day, at the Tithe Barn, Free entry

See the newly repaired unique Grade II listed timber-frame Tithe Barn and enjoy the surrounding green space.

Saturday 14 November, 9.30am–12.30pm

Outdoor Gym, at the Tithe Barn, Free Entry

Get active and involved and help us tidy the hedge and meadow strip to the Tithe Barn. Led by our very own Landscape Architect and Horticulturalist. No experience necessary.

How to find the Tithe Barn – The gate entrance is opposite No 2 Waterbeach Road, Landbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9FA. Walk along the uneven grass track. By train, it is a 1.7-mile walk from Waterbeach Station. On cycle or by foot, see our website for a 2.8-mile cycle and footpath route map from North Cambridge and surrounding villages. By bus, infrequent No. 9 Stagecoach or Citi Bus no.2 to Landbeach. Regular No.9 service to Waterbeach, then a 1.1-mile walk. There is free road parking.

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FECA IN LANDBEACH

FRIEND OF WORTS MEADOW

During lockdown, many larger nature reserves, National Trust gardens and other outdoor spaces had to be closed. In our small village of Landbeach, residents were still able to visit Worts Meadow, where the two fields, wood and pond areas provided for peaceful daily exercise away from the crowds. FOWM work parties and public events were cancelled, but the gentle ebb and flow of the wildlife and seasons continued. Great Crested Newts took advantage of the high pond levels early in the season and the males with their distinctive jagged crests and white lined tails appeared in the ponds waiting hopefully for females to arrive. In spite of currently very low water levels, there are now plenty of young newts around. At the very beginning of July, the soft purring call of a Turtle Dove was heard on and around the reserve. This is our first record of this now sadly rare bird for at least 4 years. Whether quiet was a partner for him and whether quiet roads and skies were a factor in the bird's re-appearance we don't know.

In mid-July, eleven small Bee Orchids appeared growing amongst the edge vegetation in rough ground in the pond area. They have a habit of turning up in seemingly random parts of the wood and pond area. Although not directly on the excavated areas where the nearby ponds were deepened in 2018, the disturbance from trampling and digger tracks may have stimulated their growth. Rather less welcome is the continued take-over bid by Prickly Ox-tongue

and Teasels near the new pond. Teasels are biennial and it is only this year that thickets of them have re-appeared. We are trying to achieve a balance by cutting some of the densest areas to allow other wild flowers to grow back.

By the time you read this we will have another bench installed in Bourne Wood in one of the small grassy glades. Donated to the village by the WI in 1968, it was replaced recently by two attractive metal commemorative benches and has now been kindly passed to FOWM. We have restored the woodwork; it will make an excellent place to sit peacefully and watch the wildlife around you.

Work parties to help manage the reserve will start again on Wednesday 23 September and on the 4 Wednesday of subsequent months, except December. We also hope to restart public events with Pond Dipping on Saturday 29 August at 2pm. However, this has not yet been confirmed so please contact FOWM nearer the time.

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, to send in wildlife photographs, or to be added to our email list, contact Frances Dipper on 01223 861836, frances.dipper@sustenergy.co.uk



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FECA IN RAMPTON

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH RAMPTON ACTION GROUP

A Window on the Past

The passage of time affects us all, and when you are approaching your 1,020th birthday, as is the church of All Saints in Rampton, that is truer than ever. In January 2018, the Parish of Rampton combined with the neighbouring Parish of Cottenham becoming Cottenham with Rampton. At the same time, All Saints' Rampton became a Festival church. The change was a response to the decline in regular worship and smaller congregations. The designation of Festival church allows the village of Rampton to retain a much-loved working Church whilst joining forces with our neighbours in Cottenham for regular Parish worship.

A group of local Rampton residents has come together to co-ordinate efforts to maintain and preserve this very special Church for future generations. As well as preserving the fabric and structure of the building, the group aims to maintain a position for All Saints' at the heart of our community, as a place of worship and also a wonderful space in which the community of all faiths and no faith can come together for events and activities.

All Saints' Church, Rampton is one of only two thatched churches surviving in Cambridgeshire. Rampton's Grade II church is located on the northern side of the village, set back from the road. Recently reopened for private prayer and contemplation after the coronavirus hiatus, it is a place of tranquillity and calm. The original church was probably wooden, but the discovery of decorated Saxon grave slabs and a cross segment in the 1899–1924 restoration works, confirmed that the origins of the church pre-date the Norman Conquest.

The oldest remaining fabric in the church as it stands, however, dates from the 12th century. The church developed over the centuries with a south aisle (one bay shorter than now) and the tower added in the late 13th century; the chancel rebuilt larger in the 14th century, and the Perpendicular tower arch inserted and southwest extension of the south aisle added in the 15th century. The 18th century brick porch replaced an earlier one of the 16th century giving us more-or-less the church we see today.

The church's fortunes have varied over the centuries



South Aisle Window

– there has been wealth as the Purbeck marble tombstone of Nicholas de Huntingdon and effigy of a de Lisle knight show, but in the early nineteenth century the church had no roof.

During the 19th century the church regained a roof and in the 20th regained an east window worthy of the original. A major restoration took place between 1899 and 1924, with more minor works through the decades of the 20th century. The most recent phase of significant repair was in 2011. Part of the south aisle was rebuilt, repairs made to the roof and the church beautifully re-thatched. The work was intended to include repair and restoration of the late Perpendicular two-light window towards the west end of the South Aisle, but unfortunately, the work needed on the wall of the south aisle proved to be far more extensive than anticipated and the window project had to be postponed. Nine years later, and thanks to the very generous donation made by the Friends of Rampton All Saints', the window restoration can finally be undertaken; the works are now scheduled to begin later in the summer.



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FECA IN RAMPTON

RAMPARTS

Virtual Summer Exhibition

It was very sad to have to cancel our usual July exhibition at Rampton Village Hall; but it was absolutely great that one of our members, Jane Perks, came to the rescue and created an online exhibition using the Village Hall website, kindly available to us.

Over 100 artworks were displayed very effectively and we were delighted when Prerona Prasad, Curator of the Heong Gallery, Downing College, agreed to be the judge for our usual prize plus one for our virtual members. Virtual members were able to join in with the group during the many months of

lockdown. We had a weekly project for people to keep in touch and many artworks were displayed on the Village Hall website.

The front cover artwork is *Daisies at Rampton Church* by Maureen Miller.

Hopefully, RampArts group will begin meeting again in September.



Winner of the Virtual Members' Prize – Hebridean Beach by Will Heath



Winner of the Annual First Prize – Heartbroken by Linda Heywood

RAMPTON HORSE SHOW

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the cancellation of Rampton Horse Show for 2020 due to the coronavirus outbreak. This is a year like no other; we have to be mindful of the safety of all of our visitors and our volunteers. Unfortunately, the fun and competition of the Show is not workable with social distancing. However, we will be back next year on Saturday 18 September 2021 with a Rampton Horse Show that is better than ever! Thank you all for supporting the Show over all the many years it has been running, and in the meantime we wish you and your families, your horses and ponies all the very best.

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FECA IN WATERBEACH / WILLINGHAM

WATERBEACH CRICKET CLUB

After many weeks of isolation, some cricket has been allowed. Waterbeach Cricket Club has been running nets twice a week at the Waterbeach recreation ground to allow everyone who wants to have some practice. The nets are run under the ECB social distancing guidelines but, other than limiting numbers, these have little effect on a typical net session.

It was good to meet up with friends and get some exercise after so long indoors. We've also had some new members and players from other local teams join in. As the restrictions are relaxed further, we are playing some Wednesday night friendly games against local teams and are working on some Sunday friendlies with the season going on to the end of August.

If you're interested in nets or playing some friendly cricket please get in touch at waterbeachcricketclub@gmail.com or on Facebook as [waterbeachcricket](https://www.facebook.com/waterbeachcricket); tel: 07751 786040.

WILLINGHAM SOCIAL CLUB

During lockdown we were able to refurbish the members' bar and make improvements to the garden area. We had a successful year financially, and with committee members giving their time freely, have been able to totally transform the dated room into a bright, modern and open plan space.

At the present time the club is open with shortened hours and social distancing measures in place, but it has already proved popular and we love to welcome back our members especially.

For the most regular updates see our Facebook page. Bingo and darts will be amongst the first events to return.

Membership fees for the year are £15, Half price for over 65s.

You can call to collect an application form or download from the website www.willinghamsocialclub.com

WILLINGHAM ACTION GROUP

Life for members of Willingham Action Group has been a little less hectic recently, as our involvement in the QEII Project has ended and we are just doing routine maintenance on the Community Orchard. The orchard is developing beautifully and attracting more people either as dog walkers or picnickers. It also seems that our coordination of the Feast events will not be necessary this year due to the need for caution with Covid-19.

So, not wishing to sit about with nothing to do, we have switched our attention to something that deserves top priority – we have started our Sustainability Project. There will be so much to work on; recycling, reusing, energy saving, well-being and reducing food waste to list but a few. We have agreed to start with two actions by setting up a Willingham Repair Café and enlisting everybody's help in reducing the proliferation of single-use plastics.

We are hoping the Repair Café will be operating sometime in September. Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things together. There will be expert volunteers to help (with repair skills in all kinds of fields), tools and materials for items such as clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances and toys.

Visitors bring their broken items from home and, together with the specialists, they start making their repairs in the Repair Café. It's an ongoing learning process. If you have nothing to repair, you can still enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, or you can lend a hand with someone else's repair job. You can also get inspired at the reading table by leafing through books on repairs and DIY. We throw away vast amounts of stuff, even things with almost nothing wrong that could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. The trouble is, lots of people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves or they no longer know how.

The action on plastics use will start soon and we would like to invite people to take a pledge to think a bit more about how we can all create a more sustainable approach to consumption. We hope to send out a regular newsletter to Willingham residents full of easy switches, tips and ideas to help to not just reduce plastic waste but also make a move on other fronts. For those that subscribe we will be holding a draw of all the names we receive just before Christmas, offering the prize of a hamper with a difference. We aim to suggest how people can do small things to help improve the environment, slow climate change and maybe even improve their own health.



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM GARDENING CLUB

A Timeline History of Willingham Gardening Club

October 1985 – An initial meeting of enthusiastic village gardeners met at 38 Over Road to select a committee. They decided to hold meetings with guest speakers on the second Thursday of each month, with the first meeting to be held in January 1986 at the old Methodist School Room, next to the Library. Nowadays our meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, except January, at the Willingham Social Club.

March 1986 – The first AGM was held when the initial committee was confirmed and the subscription set at £3. The first of our many excursions over the years was planned, to RHS Wisley in June, and to Cavendish Manor Vineyards and Beth Chatto's Gardens in July. A regular programme of excursions to places and gardens of interest to our members and friends, has continued until recently. There was at one time a five-day holiday arranged to far flung parts of the British Isles.

Two other suggestions were proposed at that first AGM. First, that we hold a hanging basket, tub and window box competition in the village to encourage people to make Willingham a more attractive place which ran for a number of years. Second, to have an in-house members horticultural show, starting at the Gardening Club's August 1988 meeting. This arrangement continued until 1991 when the Gardening Club was approached by the village Horticultural and Craft Show committee to take over the running of the village show. This arrangement has continued from 1992 until the present day. This year's Show has been cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1988–97 – The Gardening Club started to organise an annual village Gardens Open Day. This initiative eventually ended due to concerns over security issues and lack of new gardens

willing to open. The loss of revenue to our chosen charity for this event, Magpas, was a disappointment. Good days were had enjoying visits to members gardens with family and friends who could be persuaded to accompany us. There were plants for sale, cream teas were available, and for several years there was live music from a local band organised by one of the committee members. Proceeds from this event went to support Magpas because one of the doctors at our village surgery was active with Magpas and also gave a demonstration and talk at one of the Gardens Open Days.

2000 – The Gardening Club was running successfully with 130 members. However, the chairman at that time appealed for more help as the committee were not getting any younger. Things never change!

The Gardening Club ran an annual Plant Stall on a Saturday morning at the end of May on one of the members driveways on the High Street. The Plant Stall came to an end in 2014 when the availability of plant material for sale and manpower diminished.

The Present – Over the years our Speakers Secretaries have worked hard to find speakers of interest, many becoming regular favourites with us. Topics ranging from gardens, flowers and vegetables from around the world, talks from local nurserymen and specialist growers, crafts and gardening practicalities. We were fortunate to have Bob Flowerdew talking on the 'Scented Garden', and the late Peter Beales visiting on two occasions with his talks on 'Classic Roses' and 'Roses of the World'.

The Gardening Club has now been in existence for thirty-four years thanks to the enthusiasm of our founding members, and our continuing membership. As soon as the current situation settles down, and it is safe to do so, we hope to be up and running again. In the meantime, let's keep our heads down, stay safe, and look forward to living to fight another day.

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM BOWLS CLUB

This has been an unbelievable year for many wrong reasons, Covid-19 has changed all our lives and changed our recreational pursuits.

This year was going to be our year to launch the Willingham Bowls Club Community Scheme. We had planned to work with Willingham and Over Surgeries, offering their patients rehabilitation sessions at the Bowls Club. We had planned to have some morning sessions offering bowls as a gentle exercise, coffee and a chat for those living on their own. This obviously has had to be cancelled this year, but we plan to put this plan into operation next year. We were very fortunate to have sponsors for this scheme; donations were made by Willingham and District Ploughing Association, The Duke of Wellington, The Porterhouse, Uttridge Accountants and Eastern Marquees. Their donations will be kept for next year to support the scheme, more equipment and



Greenkeeper Adie Peacock using the replacement mower

refreshments as all the sessions will be free. We did have some good news despite all the lockdown and social distancing. Our Lawn Mower went wrong and, try as we could, a repair was out of the question, it was just too old and spares

continued on page 39



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

continued from page 37

were extremely difficult to find. We borrowed the cricket club's mower to keep the green under control and many thanks to them. We needed to get a new mower, so we applied for a grant from FECA and they generously gave us £800 towards our new refurbished mower. We are also very grateful to Willingham Parish Council for their help in supporting the costs of green maintenance.

Once the lockdown was eased enough for bowls to be played with certain restrictions and precautions in place, we started having some roll-ups. There are no league matches this year for obvious reasons, so it was just club members playing each other. Because of this we reduced our membership fees to £15 for the year and we have had 8 new members join, all new to bowls, which is a wonderful result for us. We have roll-ups on Tuesday and Friday afternoons and Sunday mornings but the

green is available at other time if members want to go and practise by themselves or with another member.

The future for many Bowls Clubs is going to be very difficult due to Covid-19, there is a concern to many about socially mixing even if distance is respected so membership has gone down at many clubs. Willingham Bowls Club has lost around £800 in match fees this year plus £400 loss by reducing our membership fees. All we plan to do this year is survive and hopefully next year welcome all our members back and some new members as well. We wish all readers a very healthy and safe future.

Contacts—Club Secretary: Ian Bissett
willinghambowlsclubsec@gmail.com;
Terry Buckley
terry.buckley@virginmedia.com



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A Short History of Willingham WI

Willingham WI was founded on 10 October 1928 with about 50 members and they immediately threw themselves into a hectic round of fundraising, talks and meetings, as well as taking an active part in wider village life. For example in 1934, after the Parish Council had turned down electric lighting for the parish, members made an official complaint and asked that the streets be lit by either gas or electricity. During World War II in 1941, Willingham WI purchased a stirrup pump for village use in case of fire. Talks covered a wide variety of topics; one in 1943 was on the drying of rabbit skins – presumably for gloves and coats.

Our WI has enjoyed strong support from its members over the years. The late Joan Smail was a member throughout her time in the village and became a member of the County Federation.

Joan organised the planting of a wood near the WI HQ between Histon and Girton; she is commemorated by a tree planted at the Ploughman Hall in Willingham.

Willingham WI Now – Our WI has continued in a similar vein and provided the village with the sign on the Green in 1989. The range of talks and activities includes the annual Quiz Night, open evenings and outings. In recent years we visited Charles Rennie Mackintosh's house in Northampton, Miss Savidge's house in Wells and Elgood's Brewery in Wisbech. Every other year we made a trip to Toilethorpe Hall to see the outdoor Shakespeare play, enjoyed a picnic in beautiful surroundings on the lawn in front of the house before seeing some outstanding productions. Our talks have covered many topics including the history

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INSPIRING WOMEN

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

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of Heffers, bee-keeping, Nordoff Robbins music therapy, a puddings evening and a particularly interesting one on Emmaus by Seamus Fox, who had been homeless and lived there as he recovered from addiction and became a published poet.

We have a successful darts team and a monthly craft group which is open to all in the village. Members of the group have made scrubs and wash bags during lockdown as well as knitting blankets for charity. Every year we have Summer and Christmas parties and, with around 60 members, these are lovely social occasions. We support Over Day Centre providing

cakes for the Five Pub Challenge and provide refreshments for the village Horticultural Show.

Willingham WI, Post Coronavirus – At the time of writing we are still not able to hold our regular monthly meetings, and with existing social distancing regulations it remains difficult to know when we will be able to re-start. Despite this we believe our WI is a great asset to the village and, once we do start up again, new members will be very welcome. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Social Club. If you want to join us please email willinghamwi28@gmail.com and we will keep you up to date on when we will be re-starting.

PARISH COUNCILS

COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

New Hall and Nursery project

Anyone passing through Cottenham's Recreation Ground over recent months will have seen the changes to the Car Park and alongside the fence between us and the Primary School.

The old Sports & Social Club has now gone; it started life as a sports pavilion 50 years ago and evolved into the Village Hall nearly 20 years ago. A shiny new 2-storey building with balcony is emerging from the same site. Due for completion around the end of this year, this purpose-built new Village Hall will have rentable community spaces on the Ground Floor and a large event space upstairs for private and corporate celebrations. Several franchise-style partnerships are available to potential service operators. For your brochure, contact clerk@cottenhampc.org.uk

Further along the fence, the Ladybird Pre-School, Play Area and Skate Park are still there.

Just after Ladybird Pre-School will be the new Nursery offering all-year-round all-day-care for children 0–5 years old. The Parish Council is beginning the process to appoint an operator for the Nursery which should be open for business in early 2021. To receive more details when these are available contact asstclerk@cottenhampc.org.uk

The safety of the access road is being improved by the addition of a segregated footway running directly to the new community buildings with a central speed table to allow safer 2-way vehicle

movements. The Car Park is being enlarged and cleaned up to incorporate some EV chargers for the electric cars we are being encouraged to use, alongside better cycle stands. These additional spaces will not be available during school drop-off and pick-up times.

Recreation Ground Playground – safe use during Covid-19

In line with playgrounds across the country we've had to implement numerous measures to ensure that we were able to re-open our playground. As a reminder the rules for use state:

- There is a maximum of 1 child or family group on most of the equipment. The exception is the slide, where social distancing is possible, and the large climbing frame where up to 3 people can use it at one time.
- Please don't consume food or drink in the play area – there's plenty of space on the rest of the Recreation Ground for you to enjoy.
- The play equipment hasn't been sanitized. Please ensure that you wash/sanitize your hands before and after using the equipment and avoid touching your face.
- At busy times please be aware of other users who are waiting to use the equipment.
- Please remember social distancing.

Like a lot of other areas, we have also sadly experienced a rise in littering. Please remember to take your litter home or place in one of the bins provided.

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WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The following article was kindly written by one of our parishioners, Mr Alan Fawcitt; the Parish Council thanks him for such an interesting insight into our village history.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WILLINGHAM 1200–1700

Trying to trace the history of a fen village from medieval times is constrained by the fact that the only fully literate people living then were likely to have been the Rectors of the Parish Church. Willingham is lucky. One particular Rector in the 1950s combed through the archives at Ely and researched the background of each of his predecessors back to the 13th century. He presented his findings in a paper to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society in 1956 and we have a copy of it.

Their track record is quite staggering. In addition to their religious role here, 20 Willingham Rectors over this 500-year period also held posts that included Baron of the Exchequer of Ireland, King's Ambassador to France (twice), King's Messenger to Rome, Chaplain to one Queen and one King, and Assistant Commissioner to Oliver Cromwell. Closer to home, their appointments included being Master of Clare College and Jesus College, Provost of King's College, and twice becoming Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

"How did it come about that the Rectors of a small fen village of around 150 people acquired this power and travelled so widely?

Firstly, it was a common practice from Norman times for the Monarch to present 'his' man to a particular Church living so that he could use the income to work for him. At the same time, it provided the King with a very effective intelligence network.

Secondly, Willingham was situated very conveniently mid-way along the only all-weather medieval route from Cambridge to Ely, via the Aldreth Causeway. This was particularly convenient for the Bishop of Ely. For 400 years he was the Lord of the Manor of Willingham, and he built a large Manor House behind Willingham Church. Amongst others that he entertained there was King Henry III in 1244. Thirdly, as one of the most senior bishops in the Catholic hierarchy, the Bishop of Ely was rich, influential, and well connected."

The Brief History of Willingham attempts to weave a brief history of Willingham around the known backgrounds of these Rectors and of the national events taking place during their 'reigns' in Willingham. It has been serialised monthly in Willingham News since May 2019. Here are some of the more important events covered.

13th century – 1230–Construction of St. Matthew's Church and the Manor House for Lord of the Manor

1244–The King's visit to Willingham and the wall painting of St. Etheldreda

14th century – 1341–Mass ordinations of up to 293 priests in Willingham

1348–The Black Death in Willingham and population falls to around 140

1371–King Edward III sends the Willingham Rector to Rome

15th century – 1400–Economic consequences of the Black Death, which had most affected young men

16th century – 1521–The last Catholic Rector is excommunicated, but then obtains Papal Absolution

1553–The first Protestant Rector is deprived of his living for being a married clergyman

1559–Parish Registers start; popular names are Joan, Agnes, John and William

1563–Elizabethan Willingham prospers; population now 400

1579–The core layout of the village is established; first schoolmaster arrives

1603–After 500 years ownership by the Bishop of Ely, the Manor of Willingham is sold

17th century – 1605–Rector is Chaplain to King when Gunpowder Plot fails to blow up King James I

1613–Church roof is replaced by a double hammer beam oak roof from Barnwell Priory

1640–Draining of Fens; Ouse is diverted from Old West to New Bedford River at Earith

1642–Civil War; Royalist Bishop of Ely imprisoned in Tower of London for 18 years

1643–Oliver Cromwell sends Dowsing to destroy images; wall-paintings are preserved

1647–Pro-Cromwell Rector made Assistant Commissioner to eject teachers and clergy

1660–Pro-Cromwell Rector himself now ejected and starts a Dissenter Chapel

1660–Agriculture thrives, first orchards and cheese-making; population around 450

1665–Bubonic plague epidemic lasts 18 months and kills 20% of national population

What changed over this 500-year span? Transport changed little; its main mode was still by horse, boat or on foot. In agriculture, strip farming was replaced by enclosed and reclaimed fields, and the diversion of the river Ouse stopped the frequent flooding that had blighted Willingham for centuries. The population of the village trebled from 150 to 450, but house design changed little, and most people still lived in single-storey timber-framed cottages, with mud and straw walls and thatched roofs, dark inside with damp floors. The next 200 years were to see enormous changes.

STITCHWILD

**A member's trip to India – March 2020,
by Lisa Jenns**

My love for the Indian culture started when I was young, growing up in a multi-cultural area in Kent. Belvedere had a large Sikh community with regular festivals and parades which I joined in with my school friends; the colours of the clothes, the food, the sensory explosion I saw as a young girl has always been with me.

Moving to the fens was quite different. I met Neeraj at the school gates when our children were attending the same school. She asked me if I would like to join her to visit her family in the Punjab region of India; of course, I jumped at the chance! I have been to India three times now and have stayed with the same family. For this year's trip I did some research and planned a textiles tour for Neeraj and me.

Our first stop was Delhi and a trip to the National Gallery of Modern Art to see the famous stainless steel tree by Subodh Gupta; we also caught the touring exhibition of Gerard Garouste, a French artist who has founded a group called La Source, which helps children with art. Then we went on to Amritsar to visit the Golden Temple. Our hotel manager arranged for us to see the Rumala, a silk cloth which holds the Holi book in the Golden Temple. This cloth is hand embroidered with goldwork (gold metal threads held down by threads stitched over them). In this case, it was red silk stretched out on a 10x16 foot wooden frame, with male and female stitchers seated cross legged around the edges sewing the detailed pattern with one hand on the top and one hand below. We were given the privilege and honour of adding a few stitches. It was mesmerizing to see this cloth up so close.

Neeraj and I then went to visit a school we support. *Agosh Holding Hands* is a school for children with disabilities and special needs.

We continued our tour and went to Ahmedabad to take a road trip to Patan to visit the Patola (fine silk cloth) heritage museum. Generations of the same family are master weavers of the double Ikat Patons Patola hand dyed in vegetable dyes on 8 stranded silk threads. This process can take three months to complete, and it can take a year to make enough to complete a single sari. (See www.patapatola.com for more information). We crossed the road to visit Rani Ki Vav, a stepwell built in the 11th century. Stepwells are wells or ponds in which the water is reached by descending a set of steps to the water level. Heading back to Ahmedabad, we stopped to see some roadside artisans hand carving blocks for hand printing. They allowed us to take photographs; and, keen to show us more, the craftsmen took us to see some block printing in process with metallic gold dye where we were shown how to print on black cotton fabric. They gave us the cloth we printed, which we had made into trousers.



Stitching the Rumala

FEN EDGE GROUPS

In the evening, friends took us to the street bazaar. India is permanently busy. The hustling and bustling crowds, the noise of the people on the street, horns, bells, tuk-tuks, the smells of street food, the colourful hanging fabrics and the traders welcoming you into their parlour provided a wonderful sensory overload.

Next, we head to Rajasthan Jaipur, where we had an appointment to visit Ladli/India (www.ladli.org). Ladli is a social enterprise, empowering street children, youth and women at risk through skill training and livelihood opportunities. We met some of the children in school and the women making jewellery in the shop. We spoke about how we could support them. As in many non-funded schools in India, simple basics like knitted jumpers and cardigans are always welcome.

We left Ladli and headed to Amber Fort for sightseeing; and then visited Anokhi, a museum of hand printing, which provided an in depth look at this ancient tradition. There was another stepwell here. We then drove back to Jaipur, 'the pink city', entranced by the sight of it lit up against the dark.

Next day we flew back to Amritsar and my friend and I went our separate ways; she for filming in a movie; and me for volunteer work at the school my friend and host Dimple works at. The Government Elementary School Sant Nagar in Jandiala is a school for the poor children of the villages but isn't funded by the government, so its provisions are very basic. It had a tap for handwashing, one light bulb in the entire dark classroom, and a noisy generator always smelling of diesel. The joy on the children's faces when they received dinner trays, beakers and spoons on our previous visit was a precious memory. By now it was 6 March 2020. On my second day at the school there was a lot of news about the coronavirus; and we were suddenly all wearing masks. Some of the children were trying to make masks out of paper towels, and seeing their difficulty, I asked if I could buy some for them instead. (One mask costs 30 rupees – about 30p – an amount far out of the reach of these children.) The health visitor came and explained about the importance of face coverings and hand washing, and told the bad news that masks are for one day's use only. (I would later, on return to the UK, make enough washable, reusable masks for each teacher and student, 170 in all).



Working on a mural

My last few days at the school were spent painting murals in the classroom and playing vocabulary games exchanging English and Hindi words with the children.

I returned to the UK, just before lockdown was imposed. To fund my mask making project for the school, I made and sold masks for friends living in London, who needed them for public transport.

My plans for a return trip to India in Nov 2020 have been cancelled; but I plan to spend the time working on fundraising events to help the school buy a water filter system for their school and also a new generator. There is nothing quite like seeing how people manage on so much less than what we have, to make us all thankful for what we have; and to inspire us to help those less fortunate.

Lisa Jenns is a member of StitchWild Textile Art Group in Cottenham; she also authors a Facebook page called 'The Wannabe Goodlife Housewife.' She uses this name for her Women's Institute work in workshops and craft sessions.



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FEN EDGE GROUPS

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The classes are small, and are run by a qualified, experienced teacher using Russian style ballet (Vaganova).

www.abmschoolofdance.com



FEN EDGE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Avrillé in Lockdown

The Fen Edge Twinning Association has been able to keep in touch with our French friends during lockdown with our first (very successful) Zoom meeting taking place in May.

It is clear that the Avrillé 'Twinners' were very disappointed at having to postpone their visit to us this year, which had been planned to coincide with our VE-Day celebrations. Postponing an event is always sad, but this year was particularly hard as we had been offered a very substantial grant from FECA to help us to mark the occasion with a bespoke guided tour of Duxford. The French now plan to visit us from 13–16 May next year, and we hope to be able to give them an even better experience.

On the domestic front, we have held one social evening on Zoom to mark Bastille Day on 14 July. We enjoyed a chat over French Cheese and Wine from the comfort of our own homes.

Plans are in hand for our ever-popular annual quiz evening which we now hope to hold in early October. The exact date and venue are still to be confirmed so look out for our flyers on a notice board near you.

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FEN EDGE ORCHESTRA

Fen Edge Orchestra is a friendly, amateur orchestra which was formed over 10 years ago. It rehearses in Cottenham Village College on Wednesdays during term times. Members come from Cottenham and surrounding villages, as well as from Cambridge and even further afield.

Evan Turner directs the orchestra. We give two concerts a year – usually a winter concert at Histon Baptist Church, and a summer concert in Cottenham Parish Church.

The orchestra performs a varied menu of music; classics, such as Beethoven and Haydn symphonies, some early music, and some more contemporary repertoire.

There are no auditions to join the orchestra. Interested players are invited to get in touch, see below. Depending on whether there is a place available for the instrument in question, you would be asked to come to a Wednesday rehearsal, or you will be put on a waiting list and contacted when there is a vacancy. Due to Covid-19 there are no rehearsals at the time of writing (July). Hopefully, members will be ready and eager to return to playing together as soon as rehearsals restart. Watch the website for notices. www.fenedgeorchestra.wordpress.com

COTTENHAM TENNIS CLUB – Please see their detailed and colourful article here: fenedge.co.uk/2020-07-ctc-update

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FEN EDGE GROUPS

ARTHUR RANK HOUSE

Reunite with the beautiful City of Cambridge by taking part in a unique version of Bridge the Gap Walk!

This August and September you are invited to reunite with the beauty of Cambridge, by taking part in a novel alternative to the City's traditional Bridge the Gap Walk. The walk with a difference can be completed in one day or over a number of days between Saturday 29 August and Sunday 20 September, raising funds for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Romsey Mill.

Bridge the Gap, sponsored by The Cambridge Building Society, has historically hosted upwards of 2,000 walkers each year. Due to obvious reasons the walk is unable to access the Colleges this year, so the organising committee has turned its attentions to the history and beauty of the City itself.

The carefully crafted route covers a distance of



around 2.5 miles, which will be self-guided and can be walked all in one go, or in sections on different days. The route is wheelchair and pushchair friendly.

The event is open for registrations at arhc.org.uk/btg with anyone welcome to register, at a cost of £20 per household. The fee covers the registration pack, which includes a booklet with map detailing the route walkers will embark upon, two quiz sheets and an answer sheet.

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
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FEN EDGE GROUPS

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In the week prior to the walk commencing, participants will also receive a link to a podcast providing a flavour of some of the highlights they can expect to see on the route.

A proportion of the fee as well as any sponsorship raised by those taking part, will be split evenly between the benefitting charities, Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Romsey Mill.

Over the eighteen years since it began, more than 37,000 walkers have taken part in Bridge the Gap and £550,000 has been raised for local charities.

ROTARY CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE SOUTH

Club members continue to meet weekly, using Zoom, with fascinating speakers.

Most of our functions have had to be cancelled, but we hope to run Peace activities in November and Charity Christmas car parking in Cambridge.

Peace activities in November – A Rotary Peace

scholar studying for a Master's degree at the University of Bradford is hoping to join us to speak to local Cambridge schools (9–11 November). Also, teams of three may compete in the Peace debate on Wednesday 9 November at Impington Village College.

Memory café – This is normally held at Girton on the first Friday of the month, but is currently suspended. We hope to restart this for Christmas. See the club website for more details. The Café is held at St Vincent's Close Community Hall, CB3 0PD.

Volunteers needed for charity car parking – if you could spare a few hours and would like to help this Christmas (weekends 28 November to 20 December plus 27–30 December) please contact smithmichaelstanley@hotmail.com

Please also look for the Rotary signs, such as on Lensfield Road and Tennis Court Road, if you are parking in Cambridge on those days. It will probably cost just £7 and proceeds go to charitable good causes.

At an International level, Rotary's effort continues to progress the eradication of Polio worldwide – you may see some news in the press in August.

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