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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.

Contact Us

Neil Gough – Chair

✉ chair@fenedge.co.uk

✉ editor@fenedge.co.uk

✉ advertising@fenedge.co.uk

🌐 www.fenedge.co.uk

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



I wish to convey my very best wishes to you all. It has been a long winter so far dominated by daily updates on a virus that has reshaped lives and brought with it great sadness at times.

We were all hoping to be looking forward to the Fen Edge Festival at the end of June; but we are just looking forward hopefully to the end of restrictions. It is very obvious that people are frustrated, disappointed and tired which is very understandable – I feel that too. Let us just hope that 2021 is the year of transition; the year in which we get back to fully experiencing the good things in our communities.

This issue of the Fen Edge News is about looking forward to that transition and giving our member organisations the opportunity to reach out and inspire you with their enthusiasm and plans. We really hope you will take the opportunity to read about all the things that are going on in our communities and get involved in something new. There really is something for everyone.

Many of our member organisations will need to reactivate their activities, which will not be an easy task. I am sure the support of new volunteers and participants will be most welcome and I hope this edition of the Fen Edge News might inspire you to do so.

Here's hoping for a 2021 that is very different to 2020 for our member organisations and their members.

Best wishes,

Neil Gough, Chair

What's on and when in the villages

APRIL

Tue 6 Cottenham Sports Centre – Half-term camp

MAY

Sun 2 1-5pm Rampton '77 Committee – Wild Goose Chase at Rampton Village Hall grounds (p29)

Thu 6 7-8.30pm Landbeach Tithe Barn Trust – AGM at Landbeach Tithe Barn (p23)

Sat 22 9am-12pm Landbeach Tithe Barn Trust – Histon Country pop-up Market at Landbeach Tithe Barn (p23)

Sun 30 11am-4pm Landbeach Tithe Barn Trust – Art

Exhibition: at Landbeach Tithe Barn (p23)

JUNE

Sat 12-Sun 13 and Sat 19-Sun 20 11am-4pm

Landbeach Tithe Barn Trust – Art Installation: *Covid Dreams* at Landbeach Tithe Barn (p23)

JULY

Sat 10 2-5pm Rampton '77 Committee – Rampton Summer Fayre at Rampton Village Green (p29)

Sat 17-Sun 18 Ramparts – Summer Exhibition at Rampton Village Hall (p29)



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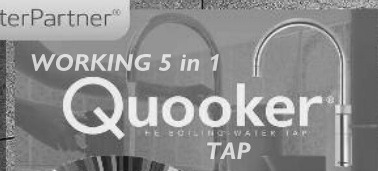
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FECA IN COTTENHAM

SUSTAINABLE COTTENHAM



A new beginning – After several years operating as a working group of Cottenham Parish Council, Sustainable Cottenham's activities have become sufficiently ambitious and effective that we decided it was finally time for the group to

come of age and become a Charity. This happened officially on 25 March 2020.

One impetus for this transition was Sustainable Cottenham's involvement in supplying reusable cups at Fen Edge Community Association's (FECA's) Fen Edge Festival in June 2019. Not only did the initiative save well over 1,500 single-use plastic cups from landfill, it also provided a sizeable profit for FECA. We are building up our membership. In addition to the committee, there are members who are active in sub-groups (such as Plastic-free Cottenham and Eco Eats) and activities such as litter picks, Sunday socials, or, remotely, as our followers online. New members are always welcome!

Our first AGM was held on 9 March 2021 on Zoom. We look forward to future AGMs in person!

What happened in 2020? Following the excitement of becoming a Charity, the rest of 2020 was inevitably a disappointing year for Sustainable Cottenham, with very restricted activities. Our news of 2020 is largely the story of events we are still waiting to enjoy. We had grand plans for an Eco Eats festival in autumn 2020, to celebrate food whilst promoting sustainable diets and reduced food waste, in association with Cambridge Sustainable Food. This has been postponed until autumn 2021, or possibly 2022.

Despite the restrictions, we were able to support Cambridge Sustainable Food's Food for Our Future campaign, promoting their Food Waste Challenge online and gathering recipes and tips for ways to avoid food waste on our website.

We are hoping to be able to get back to our regular twice-yearly litter picks in 2021, and also look forward to being able to resume the Sunday Socials once restrictions are lifted.

Looking forward – We are keen to hear from anyone interested in helping to set up or join a biodiversity sub-group. We want to look at what more we can do locally to support our natural assets and their key role in combating climate change.

Plastic drinks bottles are always a large part of what is collected on litter picks. After the next village litter pick, we are planning to review the pickings to work out which brands of drinks are most commonly found. Which will be the biggest offenders?

Environmental groups such as Surfers Against Sewage are increasingly trying to put pressure on big corporations to take responsibility for their plastic pollution. Plastic pollution has never been an issue of consumer responsibility alone.

Please visit our website for updates and to find out more about what we do. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining us for any of our activities.

www.sustainablecottenham.org.uk

www.sustainablecottenham.org.uk/eco-eats

www.facebook.com/suscottenham

COTTENHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

At the time of writing our Adult Learning provision and Sports Centre are currently closed due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and we will be open again as soon as it is safe to do so. Once we can re-open information will be available on our websites: community.cvcweb.net and www.cottenhamsportscentre.co.uk and Facebook pages.

The Sports Centre is currently planning a phased reopening from Tuesday 6 April starting with its half term camp.

FIRS HOUSE AND TELEGRAPH STREET PPG

It will be a year in March since the Firs House/Telegraph Street Patient Participation Group had our last face-to-face meeting. During this extraordinary period, we have continued virtual meetings on Zoom with a GP Partner and the Practice Manager. In addition to their normal GP services, Firs House Practice along with other GP Practices in the area have worked tremendously hard to roll out the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

If as a patient of the Firs House Practice, you would like us to include any matters for discussion at one of our meetings, you can email ppgfirshouse@gmail.com, or drop a letter to either Firs House or Telegraph Street surgery, marked FAO: PPG Chair.



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM VILLAGE SOCIETY Cottenham Ponds



Cottenham Green in the 1890s, courtesy of Cottenham CCAN

Following the heavy rains over the winter I wondered about the function of ponds today and in the past.

What was the role of ponds in the past? Some ponds were artificial and were originally dug for marl (a lime-rich clay spread on fields to reduce acidity) or some other form of quarrying. They were used as sources of water for livestock, as fishponds, and as ponds with industrial uses. Nowadays tanks of water are provided in fields for the animals. Village ponds were often created for washing off working horses and wetting the wheels of carts to expand the wood. Historically the village pond may have provided fish in the Middle Ages, water for washing clothes and as a watering hole for cattle, possibly grazing on the green itself.

One pond that is still in place in Cottenham is the one in Tenison Manor. This is on the site of the moat of the manor house of Crowlands, and this could have been for protection, for status and even fish storage.

A house that once stood on the site of Cottenham Village College had a pond which still exists on the site today though the house was removed in order to build the school complex.

Many farm complexes had ponds on their properties. On the 1887 map several ponds can be seen at the back of properties: the end of the Village College land; Camps Yard which is a bit further down the High Street; the end of Church Close; and

the back of several properties on the north side of the High Street.

In Cottenham there was a pond at Saberton's corner; the junction of Lambs Lane and the High Street. We still see some flooding in this area. The pond had disappeared by at least the time of the OS map of 1887.

Ponds on common land associated with Greens were on Cottenham Green, Beach Road corner and Church Hill (Broad Lane and High Street junction). These are all visible on the 1887 map. The largest of the ponds was on the village green but in 1928 this was filled in. Cottenham green is triangular, often a sign of an area where livestock was driven overnight in the medieval period.

Chesterton rural district council minutes record on 26 November 1925 'It was resolved to instruct a surveyor to fill in the pond at Green End Cottenham at an estimated cost of £50 and that the cost would be a general charge on the district.' On 25 March 1926 the motion to fill in pond was rescinded, but the Parish council, on 24 November 1927, applied to use the pond at Green End as a dumping ground for the parish. It was agreed that un-burnable rubbish be put upon the Green End pond site and covered with earth. The residents of Cottenham could take their rubbish to the pond and by 28 March 1928 the site would be closed and filled in with earth.

The only indication of the reason for filling in the pond was the need for a hole in which to put rubbish. There is no mention anywhere of the pond being a health hazard. The pond was needed less for the horse drawn wagons to immerse their wheels to maintain the fit. It was the beginning of the mechanised age for transport. The other factor was increase in consumerism and therefore increase in waste and the need for somewhere to put it. A dig was carried out on a small part of the ex-pond area as part of a Fen Edge Festival. Some of the objects such as glass (bottles), metal (bicycle frame) that were retrieved from the trench could have been recycled. Presumably there was no need to do so in the 1920s – unlike today!

Glynis Pilbeam, Secretary

Please check our website for recommencement of events.

cottenhamvillagesociety.wordpress.com



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM UNITED COLTS FC

We welcome all new residents to the villages within the Fen Edge patch. If you are interested in getting involved in local grassroots football as a player, coach, supporter or sponsor please contact us (details below). We offer structured, safe, fun and competitive, inclusive football for girls and boys from U6 to U18. This effort was rewarded last June with us winning the Cambridgeshire Football Association (FA) McDonald's Grassroots Club of the Year and in December being awarded Living Sport Amateur Community Club of the Year.

As we are in lockdown, we are limited to online virtual communications. This is not easy, but it is important that we maintain contact with our players and parents so that we are prepared for when we emerge. An example of this preparation is fitness "guru" Bob Celentano leading virtual fitness sessions for our U12/13 squads.

Another example of great work by this club is our determination to grow the number of girls playing football and encourage ladies and girls to take up coaching and to become role models. This has been hugely successful with our U16 girls as we partnered with Cambridgeshire FA to



Club stalwart Simon Rose with players Phoebe and Ava after being presented with the Living Sports Community Club of the Year Award

Our continued success provides its own problems as we outgrow the facilities available at our home on the recreation ground. To that end, with the help of Cottenham Renegades Rugby Club, work has gone on over the Christmas period to put a storage tank at Cottenham Village College. This will now become our second home and provide us with much-needed extra pitches. Next on our agenda is the improvement of Winter training facilities; we are grateful to The Football Foundation for a grant towards the purchase of a set of floodlights to enable this. We are also very grateful to FECA, who donated the balance required to obtain this large grant. Our committee continues to work with Cambridgeshire FA and The Football Foundation to extend the 3G Astro surface at the college but we are competing for funding with many of our neighbouring clubs, such as our good friends at Over, to improve these much sought after facilities. Given our very wet winters lately, investment in all-weather 5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 pitches would be a dream come true!

mentor Tahira as an Assistant Coach. Please see article at www.cambridgeshirefa.com/news/2021/feb/03/coach-spotlight-feb-2021

Cambridgeshire FA recognised us as one of a small number of clubs across the county to be a *Hub Club* offering FA *Wildcats*, after school clubs, coach mentoring and long-term coaching development and training leading to entry into the senior teams.

Speaking of FA *Wildcats*, we are proud to see a number of our talented young ladies progress through this pathway and into Cambridgeshire FA *Advanced Coaching Centre for Girls*. This being the first rung on the ladder into *England Youth* squads.

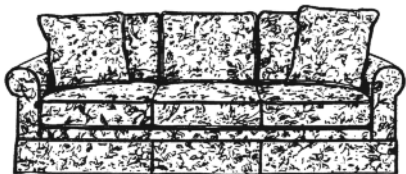
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A black and white close-up photograph of a young child's face, focusing on the eyes and nose. The child has light-colored hair and is looking slightly to the side.

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM CRICKET CLUB

I'm writing this in late-February, just after the Government announcement regarding the road map out of lockdown! With outdoor sports being given the go-ahead from 29 March, there seems every likelihood now that we will be able to enjoy something of a normal cricket season when competitive matches get started in May. The chance to get back playing cricket will really be something to look forward to!

If all goes well, the Club is planning to run our two adult men's sides, as usual, and we also hope to have some junior cricket, from the U15 age range downwards, in the school summer term. And while we are talking about our young players, we are very keen to offer more coaching to youngsters from the age of 5 up to 15. However, we do really need some help and support in doing this. So, if you have a cricket-mad child who would love to improve their skills and have some fun – or even if you haven't and would simply like to get involved – please get in touch with any one of us (below) so that we can work together to get our local youngsters playing and enjoying this wonderful game.

As ever, we want to reach out to all local cricketers not currently playing for Cottenham to join us in our efforts to keep our Club, one of the oldest in the County, both moving forward and providing the opportunity for all ages in the village to take part in our great game. We feel this is so important, especially in the extremely difficult times that we have gone through this last year. Please do get in touch – you'll be most welcome.

With indoor sports facilities not being reopened until April at the earliest, it looks like we will have to start our indoor, pre-season net practice at Fenner's somewhat later than planned. Please keep an eye on the Club News section of our website for details. And anyone interested in finding out more about what's going on can simply contact any one of us, as outlined below.

Time to be optimistic, though, and look forward to a full summer of cricket!!

Take care everyone and stay safe.

Club Contacts: Email: cottenhamcc@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary: David Chaplin (01954 250075)

Chairman: Ralph Lamble (01954 250313)

Vice Chairman: Dave Partridge (01954 203210)

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

Website: www.cottenham.play-cricket.com

Twitter: @CottenhamCricket

Dave Partridge

COTTENHAM GARDENERS' CLUB

Sadly, our hopes that the gardening club might be able to start with the AGM at the end of February have been dashed. All the speakers on last year's programme were provisionally rebooked for the equivalent dates this year (i.e., the last Friday of the relevant month), subject to confirmation. The situation is still uncertain, but we hope to know more soon. At least many of our members will have received their first Covid-19 vaccination by now, so there is a prospect of better times ahead.

Meanwhile, I hope that everyone has been able to enjoy the signs of spring, either in your gardens or out and about. The committee wish you all well and hope it won't be too long before we can reconvene.

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

COTTENHAM WI

As I am writing this it looks as if Lockdown may soon be ending. Good news. Hopefully our normal meetings will be able to resume in the near future.

In the mean-time there is the chance to attend Zoom meetings covering many topics, such as an astronomy talk with Baroness Bolsover and an adventure by a group of women at the North Pole.

The WI are campaigning to improve the climate and letters have been written to our MPs about the use of neonicotinoids and the effect they have on bees. There is also a competition for WI groups to create a greener and cleaner garden space to live in. The winning entry will be displayed at the RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival.

We would love to welcome new members. For further information please ring Margaret 01954 488427.



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM TENNIS CLUB

A small virus has managed to ruin most of our plans over the last year. At present we are in lockdown and unable to play at all, just getting a small tennis hit from watching the Australian Open to maintain our addiction.

So, sadly, none of our coaching has been able to happen. We are particularly sorry that, having booked the sports hall to do so, we were unable to coach the tiny tots indoors, which would have been lovely for them over the winter. I really feel for our coaching company, *Game Set Tennis*, that has been unable to run their business most of the year. I hope that once coaching restarts, we all support them as much as possible.

Any plans mentioned here come with the proviso that they may not happen.

Adult beginner short courses coming soon

We are hoping to go ahead with our new adult beginner *Tennis Xpress* short courses this summer.

This learn-the-basics course will focus on meeting other players, keeping active and having fun! The coaching will aim to introduce basic tennis skills while familiarising players with the scoring system and the rules. Taking place over six weeks, it is aimed at adults who are either new to the game or a little rusty and needing a confidence boost before getting back on court.

By the end of the course, participants will be ready to serve, rally and understand the scoring system. These new skills will provide the foundations to continue playing tennis on a regular basis, whether in a social or competitive environment.

The Co-op has chosen to support us as one of their current local causes, for which we are very grateful, and we hope to raise enough money to make these courses available at half cost-price.

Keep an eye on our website www.cottenhamtennis.co.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/cottenhamtennis for updates.

Covid Grants – We would like to thank the Cambridgeshire County Council *Covid Enabler Grant* and *Cottenham Covid Support Team* for their kind donations, which are funding a noticeboard at the courts at *Cottenham Sports Centre*. This will enable us to display all the necessary signage about Covid-19 regulations to ensure everyone can play safely as

soon as we are allowed to. It will also have space for club information so people can keep an eye on all the tennis coaching and other events available to all residents in the local community.

Donation to Cottenham Primary School

The club has been able to donate 30 new rackets to Cottenham Primary School, as well as some trainer balls, for children in years 5 and 6 to use during their curriculum tennis sessions. We hope this will encourage more children to have fun and take up the sport.

Coaching – The full range of coaching for adults and children age 3+ is set to continue as soon as restrictions allow. It was wonderful to see the impressive progress people were making during the excellent coaching sessions in the autumn, despite the very wet weather. We hope to pick up where we left off and continue to offer top quality, reasonably priced coaching with *Game Set Tennis* as soon as we can. All bookings are made via www.gamesettennis.co.uk, but do check the club website and Facebook page for details.

Non-members welcome – Don't forget we always welcome non-members who want to come and see what we offer for a trial period without any obligation to join, so do get in touch. Our email address is info@cottenhamtennis.co.uk.

Let's hope that we can all get back on the courts soon, with many of us now jabbed it may be safe!

COTTENHAM CHARITIES

The spirit of Christmas

The long-standing tradition of giving help at Christmas was continued in December with Christmas vouchers given to over 90 families and individuals by Cottenham Charities and the Fitzwilliam Charity. Twinkle Star Children's Trust also kindly provided funds to give children a Christmas gift.

The trustees of Cottenham Charities also agreed to make a donation to Ely Foodbank, which has a distribution centre in Cottenham.

Applications for grants for essential household or disability items can be considered by Cottenham Charities throughout the year. More details, and an application form, are available on the website www.cottenhamcharities.co.uk

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM UNITED FC

We are continuing to run our two adult men's teams, a 1st team in the Kershaw Senior A League and a Reserve side in the Kershaw Division 3B League.

A delayed 2020/21 season started way back in September and we were just getting into things when we had a month's enforced break for the lockdown in November. The 1st team then got off to a decent restart in December with a draw away at the League leaders. But the season soon came to yet another abrupt halt with the January lockdown. As I write, the Government has just given the go-ahead for grassroots football to start again from March 29th. The season may possibly be extended into May, or even June, or it may simply be declared void because of the difficulty of fitting in all the remaining games. We must wait until we get some indication of the way ahead from the Cambridgeshire Football Association (FA).

Even the limited season we have had would not have been possible without the help, advice and encouragement we've received from the Cambs FA and the Parish Council. It gave a massive boost to the physical and mental well-being of everyone connected with the Red and Blacks family simply being able to play some football in these extremely abnormal times. And, of course, everyone is raring to get going again as soon as we get the chance!

Training sessions for both squads were taking place weekly with the 1st team training on the outdoor, all-weather surface at Northstowe College, 8.15-9.30pm on Tuesday evenings and the Reserves on the similar outdoor facilities at Cottenham Village College, 8-9pm on Wednesdays. We haven't been able to do this since before Christmas but we may now be able to restart after 29 March. However, as we move out of winter, and certainly by the time you are reading this, these training arrangements will very likely have changed so please check out with us what's happening. All are most welcome to join us at training and you can be assured of a very friendly reception. So please do come along if you're interested in playing. You may be new to the village and looking for a chance to play closer to home or already living here and wanting to get started again. Please just contact us by email at cottenhamunitedfc@hotmail.com And do check out our website, www.cottenhamunitedfc.co.uk for our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook links.

Dave Partridge

COTTENHAM CARECAR

Cottenham Carecar is one of about 60 village social car schemes operating in Cambridgeshire. In normal time it is also the busiest.

Formed in 1994 and originally known as the Doctors' Car Service, the aim is to provide mobility to those people in the village who, through age, infirmity, illness or isolation, are unable to use public transport. They operate in areas where public transport is limited and where taxis are not locally available or an affordable option. Even in a large village like Cottenham, those who cannot walk more than 50 yards can easily become housebound and socially deprived.

As time went by, the decision was made to include social journeys as well as medical and to change the name to Cottenham Carecar.

Nowadays, approximately 50% of the journeys undertaken are Medical and the rest essential Social, shopping, visiting etc.

In recent, normal, years, the scheme covers Oakington and Westwick until such time as they are included in a Northstowe scheme.

From 2016 to 2019 the average annual mileage covered was 43,000, and the average number of journeys was 2,400, at 196 per month.

Currently, because of Covid-19, a dedicated five drivers (my Fabulous Few!) are doing only urgent medical including Vaccination appointments, under strict Covid rules. Thirteen other drivers are still having to isolate.

Hopefully, it will not be long before normal service is resumed.

Gerry Brett, Coordinator

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH COTTENHAM

All Saints' Church Cottenham very much hopes to welcome you back for services commencing on Easter Sunday. This service will be in line with government guidelines and social distancing and all other safety measures are in place. In the mean-time if you need anything please contact Reverend Lynda Davies on 01954 583651 or rector@allsaintscottenham.org.uk You can also visit our website allsaintscottenham.org.uk or find us on Facebook.



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM FUN RUN

When the decision to postpone the Cottenham Fun Run was taken at the start of the pandemic it was with high hopes that the event would still go ahead during 2020. Fast forward the best part of a year and the 2020 Fun Run medals still sit in a box awaiting necks to adorn.

Virtual events have now become common place. The virtual London Marathon, for example, being awarded a Guinness World Record for the most participants to run a remote marathon in 24 hours. Not to be left out, a just-for-fun, virtual Fun Run was arranged to give the Cottenham running community the chance to take on the established 7k Cottenham route.

To support and record an individual's efforts, an open to all Cottenham Runners group was set up on Strava. The club has evolved into a sociable network for people of all abilities and currently boasts 87 members. The average weekly running mileage of the

club is well in excess of 1,200 with the leading runners regularly recording 50+ miles per week.

Restrictions will still remain in place during this year's May bank holiday and although there is cautious optimism that the 2021 Fun Run may take place this summer, there is still the unanswered question of the 2020 race and what to do with the big box of engraved medals.

With this in mind, preparations are in place to hold the 'Very late 2020 Virtual Cottenham 7K Fun Run' over the weekend of the Early May Bank Holiday (1-3 May). For a small entry fee, participants can secure a medal by running any 7k route and submitting their best time for inclusion on the Leaderboard. All ages and abilities are welcome and additional medals are up for grabs for category winners. Check Cottenham 7K Run on Facebook (www.facebook.com/cottenham7K) for details and join the runners club at www.strava.com/clubs/cvfr

Mark Hurworth – Race Organiser

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE COTTENHAM

New Bike on the Block

Cycling without Age is a new group in Cottenham, formed on the eve of the pandemic, with the aim of offering chauffeured trishaw rides to older people and others who would enjoy the wind in their hair and the chance to get outside and to chat.

Our first year has been slow going, but we were delighted to be selected by the Co-op last Autumn as one of three local good causes for 2020-21. Anyone who shops there regularly can use their membership to donate money to us each time they shop, and it doesn't cost anything. At the time of writing, Co-op shoppers have already donated £500 in 4 months, and we have 8 more to go!

Between lockdowns, we made a great link with Histon and Impington Friends, who have recently

acquired a trishaw for similar community work. We are exploring a partnership with them which would enable us to start taking rides around our village this

year. We were able to visit and test the machine for ourselves back in October and hope to get the bike over to Cottenham once restrictions ease.

We have a Facebook page and are keen to make contact with anyone who would like to be part of the group, whether you are ready to pedal or just to help with the many tasks of organising the activity. Right now, we are only a small team, though we are part of a global network of groups with its own UK presence.

Our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/CWACambridgeUK

To find out more about Cycling without Age: cyclingwithoutage.org

To support us through the Co-op Good Causes: membership.coop.co.uk/causes/51271



Gary and Amber testing the Histon and Impington trishaw

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM GARDENERS CLUB

The Socially Distant Gardener – by Ken Ellis

Well, here we are. I'm writing this at the beginning of February, but you'll be reading it sometime around late spring. By now, hopefully, you'll be heading out into your garden and/or allotment and tending the growing plants. It would be easy to tell you what to do in your garden now, but you'll get that advice in many places elsewhere. Let's instead look at things that will enhance your understanding of plants, and, hopefully, help you when you buy and plant them.

Many of us, including those without access to gardens of their own, will have learnt the gentle art of the Recreational Walk. We have visited parts of Ely that previously were either unexplored territory, or places that we drove past to get somewhere else. We've discovered patches of waste land, rich in brambles, scrub and wildlife, country park walks, and the planting on new estates. Near you will be the same, go and explore, but go with a gardener's eyes. Have a good look at a hedgerow. Note the way that wild roses climb through other plants bearing flowers on stems that seek the light. An idea for that blank high fence perhaps? Note that some plants flower early, before the trees shade them. If you have a tree with a dead patch round it, do the same. Go for early flowering bulbs and plants, such as early flowering primulas, snowdrops and cyclamen. For later flowers, plant foxgloves. They like the shade, and happily self-seed. For those people who home school, you can tick off large parts of the curriculum with the walk. Engage the unsuspecting child with open questions – how would you describe that colour? Why do you think that's growing there?

Another advantage of the Recreational Walk is that you will pass other front gardens. Without being judgemental, look at how people express themselves with the patch that you can see. The most quirky thing that I've seen was a fireman's helmet plonked under a window. As it drew your eye, you noticed the occupant of the sheltered bungalow looking at you and giving you a cheery wave. The humour shared between us was mutually beneficial. In most cases, quirky things in front

gardens will be entertaining, but you have to be wise about sad things like security.

Something that you could consider, and would be suitable for all, is to grow something that you haven't grown before. I have an alpine house, and have to be careful about pests, especially little white flies. I hit on the happy idea of growing a range of carnivorous plants in there. Exit bugs. I was surprised how easy to grow, and how hardy, some of them are. I recommend the faithful Venus flytrap and sundew as the best bug removers. All you have to do is to put their pots in a largish plant saucer and keep it topped up with water. Why? I read that in the wild, they live in mainly peaty bogs, hence the need to trap insects for nutrients.

So, when you go out and about, look around you, notice what would perhaps normally be the backdrop for the supermarket run, and take a lesson in planting. If you go to a garden centre, look at plants for sale in an area that you don't normally visit. Find out what's there, how and where they like to grow, and have a go. This is not restricted to adults; most adults that I know as gardeners started in their early days. Grow runner bean seeds in jars, mustard and cress, set up a small patch, even in a seed tray, and grow flowering plants.

Above all, become a child yourself, and enjoy the wonder of nature, as you look at plants, enjoy their colours and (with luck) eat some of their fruit.

COTTENHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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We continue to meet online for our Sunday services, which everyone is welcome to join us for from 10.30am each week. Please see our website for ways to join the services and updates on when we will be meeting back in the building, as well as other activities we plan to do: www.cottenhambaptist.org.uk

You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram, or call us on 01954 253376.

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COTTENHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE



Events – Community Cinema on the first Sunday of the month. Films (probably restarting on **Sunday 6 June**) start at 7.30pm each time. See top class films at a fraction of the cost and without having to travel.

Funds and membership – we welcome your support. Membership is just £15 for an individual (seniors £10) 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

If you are shopping on-line, please consider using (it costs you no more) *Easy Fundraising* or *Amazon Smile for Cottenham Community Centre* and we will then receive a small percentage

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cottenhamcc

or www.smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/about

If you would like a personal invite, please email bookings@cottenhamcc.org

We now have attractive gift vouchers – please consider buying as a gift for someone local. Contact treasurer@cottenhamcc.org

Covid restrictions have caused the income to fall substantially. If you can help with fundraising in any way, please do get in touch – ideas welcome.

Classes and room hire – some of our classes may be running by the time you read this or soon after. Children's classes may be allowed to resume as early as **Monday 12 April** and others from **Monday 17 May**. Do check with the class leader or the community centre whether spaces are available.

Room Hire – subject to the Covid-19 rules at the time, there are three rooms for hire (main hall, studio, coffee shop). A Full entertainment licence is held. Our wonderful new back kitchen facilities are great, including for a pop-up café.

We encourage classes, community activities and welcome organisations looking to try out new community projects.

Volunteers – volunteering at the coffee shop is a great opportunity to meet people, learn new skills, add to your CV and be part of a very worthwhile

community facility. Please have a chat with Jane Tel: 01954 202109 (when open) or manager@cottenhamcc.org

Trustees – please consider becoming a trustee to assist with the smooth running of the Community Centre. The trustees are hands-on as well as making key decisions. Do let me know if you would like to know more via bookings@cottenhamcc.org

Office available – from **1 April** we will have a central heated ground floor office (4.5x 3.3 m quiet room in the heart of Cottenham, in the same building as the coffee shop) available on licence. Could be shared – maybe as a collaboration hub or hot desking for two people. Secondary double glazing, modern lighting with newly refurbished, shared kitchen facilities and toilets. Very good WiFi. Do get in touch if you are interested.



The Coffee Shop – We plan to be open 10-2, six days per week, when possible.

Thank you for supporting the Community Centre. Just come along, or to reserve a table or to place a takeaway order you can call us on 01954 202109 during opening hours only. Keep an eye out for the Coffee shop re-opening, perhaps as early as 17 May. Jane, Tricia, and the team look forward to welcoming you.

Come and enjoy a great coffee or tea or hot chocolate, delicious scones (see photo) and cake or great light lunch from our menu.

Website www.cottenhamcc.org or email bookings@cottenhamcc.org

Please DO NOT come to the Community Centre if you feel at all unwell, thank you.



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FECA IN LANDBEACH

LANDBEACH TITHE BARN TRUST

Our campaign to install eco-friendly loos has taken a great leap forward!

A local donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) has made a wonderful £10,000 donation, taking the total raised to over £11,600 from 49 donations – over a third of the way to the £30,000 target. The goal of the campaign is to enhance the value of the barn as a valued community asset by installing eco-friendly loos for use by visitors. There is still a long way to go so all donations (of any size) are much appreciated.



There's a wide range of activities in the months ahead.

Those with an interest in the arts will enjoy two exhibitions coming up. In **May**, local painter and print maker Maureen Mace and other members of the Cambridge Drawing Society will be exhibiting their work. In **June**, local artists Theo Gayer-Anderson and Gideon Pain will be staging another immersive art installation this time reflecting on the impact of lockdown on local lives.

There also will be a pop-up market and events to support the national Heritage Open Day, as well as the ever-popular carols towards the year end. Later in the year we also hope to continue our popular *Outdoor Gym* where you can support the barn, get a little exercise, meet old and new friends all whilst helping to maintain the barn's environment.

All events may be subject to Covid restrictions and will be updated as needed.

Thursday 6 May – Annual General Meeting at the Tithe Barn, 7pm-8.30pm. Free

Meet the Tithe Barn Trust volunteer team, learn all about the Tithe Barn project and what's in store for its future.

Saturday 22 May – Histon Country pop-up Market at the Tithe Barn, 9am-12 noon. Free entry. Handmade food and gifts by local producers, from nearby villages.

See the trust website (www.tithebarntrust.org.uk/learning/2021-events) for further details.

Sunday 30 May – Art Exhibition at the Tithe Barn, 11am-4pm. Free entry. Local artist Maureen Mace will be exhibiting alongside other local artists from the Cambridge Drawing Society.

Saturday 12, Sunday 13, Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 June – Covid Dreams at the Tithe Barn, 11am-4pm. Free

A year on from the first lockdown we are all still navigating our way through uncertainty. Distanced from family and friends, unable to plan for the future, the metronome of routine and ceremony with which we mark our passage through time has been disrupted. Time itself seems to have wobbled. For some it has been an opportunity to take stock, for others the consequences have been all too real. Two local artists reflect on a year of siege from the intangible, a landscape where you cannot save yourself but you can save others. Gideon Pain's work plays on the mundane and everyday that we slip through on our way to somewhere else. It is about collective moments, some tragic and some euphoric, when the sharing of an experience gives significance to something unnoticed. Theo Gayer-Anderson has been exploring dystopia in a series of installations for many years and now finds present day events eclipsing his own visions of the future. Booking essential via www.tithebarntrust.org.uk

How to find the Tithe Barn – The gate entrance is opposite No 2 Waterbeach Road, Landbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9FA. It's a short (~5 minute) walk along the uneven grass track.

LANDBEACH SOCIETY

Due to the current situation, there are no meetings of the Society planned until further notice.



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FECA IN RAMPTON

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH RAMPTON ACTION GROUP

Villagers in Rampton are celebrating the completion of a project to restore the South Aisle window in their historic Church.

The old window at All Saints' had long been in need of total restoration, and the project became possible during 2020 thanks to very generous support from within the village for the Friends of All Saints' Church Rampton Action Group. The group is a long-standing supporter of All Saints' and consists of church and non-church members alike who share an interest in the wonderful medieval Church building.



Work started in July 2020 and was completed in time for Christmas. The project involved the careful removal of the old structure in its entirety and re-building of the window using a blend of restored elements of the original with substantial new carved

stonework. The craftsmen were able to retain many panes from the original historic glass as well as the Y tracery stonework which separates the two main lights of the window. The finished window is an accomplished and durable combination of the old and the new.

Visitors to the Church can see the restored window at any time – the Church is open most days and everyone is welcome.

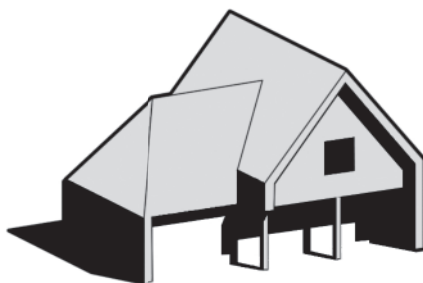


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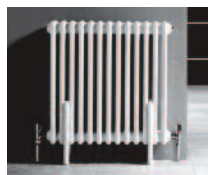
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FECA IN RAMPTON

RAMPTON HORSE SHOW

Advance notice – After missing out last year due to the Covid pandemic, Rampton Horse Show is back on **Saturday 18 September** at the Parkland in Rampton.

Rampton Horse Show is a traditional village horse show for riders of all abilities and has been part of the local calendar for horse riders for thirty years.

The Show has a relaxed, family atmosphere with plenty of good-natured competition. Rampton is a particularly good Show for young riders and first timers, as well as all of those who come back year after year.

The Show takes place on the historic Parkland site in Rampton village just adjacent to All Saints' Church.



There's plenty of free parking on the site for trailers and horseboxes, and refreshments are available all day

including some excellent coffee and bacon butties! We are making some special changes for this year to ensure a Covid-19-safe event for all.

Classes include *Showing, Dressage, Working Hunter, Show Jumping, Gymkhana* and fun classes, such as *Fancy Dress*. You can also bring your dog and enter our

Dog Showing classes. All classes can be entered in advance or on the day. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to take part, or just enjoy spectating.

Please follow us on our website www.ramptonhorseshow.org and on Facebook for up-to-date news as the Show approaches. We look forward to seeing you there!



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FECA IN RAMPTON

RAMPTON '77 COMMITTEE

Rampton's WILD GOOSE CHASE – Rampton Village Hall grounds, **Sunday 2 May** 1–5 pm.

Join our fun (accessible) village trail, solve the clues and win a lovely chocolate prize. Delicious refreshments, cakes, bottle and toy stalls, games, and our Grand Spring Raffle with amazing prizes. Full Covid-19 precautions will be in place including timed entry tickets. Limited tickets available. Advance tickets £2.50 (£4.50 for 2) from www.ramptonvillagehall.co.uk/77.html Accompanying adults do not require a ticket (unless they want a chocolate prize too!). Full refunds in the event of cancellation.

Rampton Summer Fayre – Rampton Village Green from 2–5pm, **Saturday 10 July**. Our annual summer fete; stalls, teas, children's races; once described as "The most fun you can have in Rampton".

RAMPARTS

We hope to hold the Summer Exhibition at Rampton Village Hall during the weekend of 17–18 July. If this

proves impossible during these difficult times we will post a virtual exhibition like last year.

During these rather dark months the group has been keeping busy by creating a great selection of paintings. As always, very eclectic, abstract, representational, decorative, and covering numerous topics.

We do hope the exhibition will go ahead and please do come along to see it, plenty of parking and (hopefully) homemade cakes, coffee and chat!



Pictures from the 2019 Exhibition



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FECA IN WATERBEACH/WILLINGHAM

WATERBEACH CRICKET CLUB

Hello everyone and welcome to 2021. I hope the change in the weather and the planned lifting of restrictions has everyone planning for the new year. I would like to take some of your time to give you a quick summary of last year's events at *Waterbeach Cricket Club* and let you know of our plans for the new year. While the league and early matches were cancelled last year, we extended the net sessions to twice a week and had a good attendance with new players and familiar faces. A number of other groups were also using the facilities. Please let us know if you want to do this so we can make sure we don't get any double bookings. The nets and pitches are also showing signs of wear and tear, so please look after them so they can be enjoyed by all.

Despite the early fixtures and league being cancelled we managed to have a late summer of

cricket with a series of midweek friendlies. These were arranged quickly with the help of members' friends and colleagues. I would like to give a big thanks to all who helped and to the clubs who hosted. These were maybe a step up in standard for us all and we got to visit some lovely grounds around the county.

This year I have just had notification that the league will be played using the same divisions as last year. We will also be arranging midweek and friendly games when we can fit them in. Net sessions will start later in late April, and we would love to see new faces as well as the regulars. If you are interested please get in touch with the club – @WaterbeachCricket on Facebook, email on WaterbeachCricketClub@gmail.com or give me a ring 07751 786040, Alasdair Pentland.

WILLINGHAM BOWLS CLUB

It never rains but it pours, as the saying goes and did it pour!



On 23 December the heavens opened in Willingham and the water flowed, a few days later the recreation ground was flooded and the Bowls Green was totally under water. It remained that way for nearly seven weeks, the Bowls Green is now visible even though the side ditches are still full of water. A warm dry Spring is desperately needed.

Regardless of these problems we are still positive and with the fantastic NHS giving vaccinations at a remarkable rate we hope that the Government will

allow us to meet and play bowls even if we have to keep more space between us than before but we will be out there, in the fresh air, sun and company, all well needed.

To show some gratitude to all those who have been so valuable to us all, Willingham Bowls Club is offering free membership to all NHS Staff and Key Workers. If you are one of those and interested, please contact our Secretary or Terry Buckley for more details.

We would also hope to get our Community Scheme up and running. We really hoped to have this running last year but circumstances... well, you know what I mean.

Let's hope the vaccines return us back to some form of normality and we can work with Willingham and Over

Surgeries and other members of the community to get our scheme going.

We would like to thank Willingham Parish Council for their help with the flooding problems, they have meetings with the relevant authorities to see if anything can be done for the future.

ianbissett@gmail.com

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM ACTION GROUP

Willingham Action Group (WAG) adopted *Promoting Sustainability* as a new project in 2019, with the aim of highlighting environmental problems to raise awareness locally and also taking what action we could as individuals. Since then, we have seen media coverage increase significantly as more and more people realise the dangers posed. There are increasing resources available and many new initiatives from groups such as Willingham Parish Council, the District and County Councils and many other local and national environmental groups. It is humbling to see those dedicating their lives to combatting climate change. Here's Greta Thunberg speaking at the UN Climate Conference in 2018 (at the age of fifteen!):

For twenty-five years countless numbers of people have stood in front of the UN Climate Conferences asking our nations' leaders to stop the emissions, but clearly this has not worked as the emissions continue to rise. So, I will not ask them anything, instead I will ask people around the world to realise that our political leaders have failed us because we are facing an existential threat. The people will rise to the challenge, we will have to take responsibility.

So now we are seeing this happen and the hope must be that if we each take some responsibility and do something, no matter how small, we might save the planet and ourselves. We reported our plans in the last issue, here is an update.

WAG action against overuse of plastics

We delivered leaflets to every house in the village asking residents to take the *plastics pledge* promising to reduce their household plastics consumption. It's been quite successful, with the number taking part growing each week; we set up a Google group for the 'pledgers' where we all share useful tips on ways to reduce our use of plastics. Because of the pandemic, we have made limited contact with local groups with the same aims. We were happy to find out that there are two groups nearby that operate *refill shops* where you can take your empty plastic containers for liquid soap, cleansers, shampoo, etc. and get them topped up, thus saving on the constant purchase and disposal of the very many containers most of

us have in our houses. Once the pandemic allows, we plan to develop links to work with other like-minded groups.

At the time of writing, we have just had a Zoom meeting with members of our group, some of the pledgers and with Jonathon Crisp who works for our County Council as their Recycling Education Manager. The aim of the meeting was to pick Jon's brain on issues around recycling. We are most grateful for his time and we learned a lot. We were informed that within Cambridgeshire only 56% of household material is recycled properly so there is much room for improvement but also that, before we target recycling, we should first think about reduction, reuse and repair.

Impact food production has on the environment

– About one third of total global greenhouse gas emissions are due to food production, from seed to supermarket shelf. Of course, the actual damage to the environment depends on which food. 1kg of potatoes contributes the equivalent of 0.3 kg of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere while 1kg of chicken contributes 3.8kg and 1kg of British beef 25kg. To take up Greta Thunberg's challenge we must change our eating habits. People can help by eating less meat, buying local produce locally and reducing food waste. This is such an important issue that the Government set up the *Waste and Resources Action Programme*. Estimates relating to the UK suggest about 4.5 million tonnes of edible food are thrown away each year and world-wide about one third of all food produced is wasted. Considering that producing food adds to global greenhouse gases, as noted above, if the wasted food was a country it would be the third highest polluter of all countries in the world!

There's lots more to be done in the coming year. We have started discussions with the councillors in Willingham with responsibility for Sustainability about the parish carbon footprint and how we might help. Our Parish Council has already taken action to reduce heating costs in parish buildings and are looking at carbon footprint calculations. The District Council held a *Climate and Environment Fortnight* for a variety of audiences

continued on page 35

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

continued from page 33

within our District. We plan to hold our first *Repair Café* in May if Covid-19 restrictions allow. We would welcome any Willingham residents who would like to join any of the sub-groups working on the issues mentioned above as well as increasing environmental diversity within the parish. You can get in touch through willinghamsustainability@gmail.com or see more information at willinghamlife.org/sustainablewillingham

WILLINGHAM GARDENING CLUB

At the time of writing, it is not known how the government's roadmap out of lockdown and any further restrictions will impact on the Willingham Gardening Club. As many of our members fall into either the over 70s, or shielded groups, it may be some while before our members feel happy to, or indeed are allowed to, meet indoors. Our usual meeting venue is the Willingham Social Club, Fen End, on the first Monday in every month at 7.30pm, when we would usually have a speaker on a topic of interest to our members. In the meantime, here are a few snippets of interest and jobs in the garden to do over the next few months.

Deadhead Spring bulbs – Promptly remove faded flower heads from spring-flowering bulbs to stop them wasting energy by developing unwanted seed heads. Some bulbs can be left to set seed and spread naturally, including crocus, cyclamen, erythronium, fritillaria and snowdrops. Bulbs need adequate water while in growth, and for six weeks after flowering. Improve soil condition in beds and borders in early spring. To encourage flowering, apply a general-purpose fertilizer. When feeding bulbs in containers use a high potassium liquid fertilizer in early spring. Leave bulb foliage to die down for a minimum of six weeks. Lift and replant in summer. Many tulip varieties don't re-flower unless lifted. Allow foliage to die down, lift carefully and clean bulbs, discard damaged and diseased bulbs. Let them dry before storing in paper bags or nets in a

cool, dry place. Replant in the autumn. Some dwarf species tulips (e.g., *Tulipa kaufmanniana*, *T. fosteriana*, *T. greigii* and *T. sprengeri*) are perennial.

Prune for next winter – winter flowering shrubs (e.g., *sarcococcos*, *daphnes*, winter flowering *viburnums*, winter *jasmine*, *forsythia*, flowering *currants*, *weigela* and *lonicera fragrantissima*) are coming to the end of their flowering season. Pruning now will give the shrub time to put on new growth on which next year's flowers will form. Cut a few stems down to ground level to encourage growth from the base of the shrub. Finally, cut back the stems that flowered to healthy new shoots.

Protect against slugs and snails – now is the time to be watchful. New shoots and tender seedlings are particularly vulnerable to slug and snail predation. So, prioritise barriers against them where the plants are just sprouting. Stop slugs and snails reaching young shoots in pots.

Flowers fresh for the picking – the first thing to look for is cut-and-come-again flowers, annuals, biennials and bulbs, which will keep producing more blooms the more you pick them. Opt for the ones with a long flowering season, but also aim to get as long a cutting season as possible by choosing a mixture of early and later flowering plants. Many cut flowers are good for wildlife, or are scented or edible. Here are some suggestions: *marigolds*, *stocks*, *cornflower*, *cosmos*, *bishop's flower*, *lilium*, *freesia*, *gladiolus*, *zinnia* and *dahlia*.

Take your pick – pick flowers in the morning if possible, when their stems are full of water and they are not under stress from the heat of the day. Otherwise wait until evening. Use clean, sharp secateurs or a knife and cut a generous stem, at an angle, just above a leaf joint. Make sure you cause the flowers as little stress as possible, by taking a bucket of cold water with you and dropping the cut stems into it as soon as they are picked. More importantly, keep on picking – the more you harvest, the more flowers you will get.



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Since the beginning of 2021 we have been holding our monthly meetings via Zoom. While we are not able to meet face-to-face, meeting

virtually is a good substitute for now and it's been really encouraging how many of our members have been logging on to take part.

Our January meeting was very much a 'let's see how it works' meeting, followed by our February meeting, when we had a talk from Kaye Rooney about The Chinese Nourishment of Life Tradition. It was an interesting introduction to the ideas behind Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture, in

which Kaye is a qualified practitioner. February was a quiz, with Zoom automatically putting our members into 'rooms' so that they could then do the quiz in teams, rather than individually.

At this stage it remains difficult for us to fully plan our programme of meetings for the Spring and Summer. Our approach is to be flexible so that we can stay in line with Government Guidance by doing virtual meetings when required, and then changing to face-to-face meetings once we can do so.

Whichever way we arrange our meetings, new members are always very welcome. Our meetings are on the second Monday of the month and once we can meet in person, we meet at 7.30 pm in the Social Club in Willingham. If you would like to join us, please email willinghamwi28@gmail.com and we will be able to let you know the latest details of our meetings.



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM WHEELS

Advance Notice – Sportif,

Sunday 3 October – Willingham Wheels along with Swavesey and Over Cycling Group have decided to get their sportif oven-ready on the off-chance that, on this date, they will have a sufficiently expansive Covid-19 all-clear to allow cyclists to meet and ride *en-masse*.

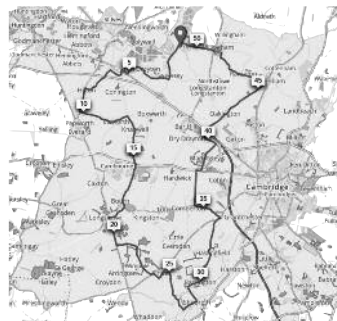
The 2019 edition was a great success with riders very appreciative of the excellent, clearly waymarked 50-mile route around the Cambridge countryside. Families were also catered for by an 8.5-mile route along the guided busway with free cake and drinks at the turnaround point.

This year, the chosen charity for all proceeds is once again the Over Day Centre (ODC). Last time the Sportif – celebrating also the 10-year anniversaries of Willingham Wheels and the ODC 5-Pub Challenge and Meridian Meander(!) – made over £3,000 for ODC. Funds were greatly boosted by live

music kindly supplied free of charge by *Mystery Train* and *Cat Pawsey*, supporting a BBQ and bar in glorious June weather under a marquee.

Rather than a marquee, the post-ride convivial this time will be held at Over Community Centre with its attractive bar (and cold beer!), separate café area and superb outdoor seating (weather permitting).

There is talk of a shorter route for those who find 8.5 miles too short and 50 too long, subject to more signage volunteers coming forward. The usual media blitz is planned as the year progresses.



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

THE WILLINGHAM LOVE HUB

Covid-19 Support Group

The Willingham Village Facebook page began life in March 2014, set up by a villager as a much-needed online presence and a rallying point if the community ever faced significant challenge. Cue Coronavirus – and the Willingham Love Hub was born, with the Facebook page administrators serving as its initiators and chief coordinators.

Willingham was divided into ten zones, each with two zone reps to share the responsibility of delegating volunteers (over 100 put their name forward!) to assist shielding Willingham residents. An army of distributors delivered Love Hub leaflets to over 1,900 households, providing information and the dedicated rep phone numbers. To ensure everyone in the community was reached, Love Hub information was also shared on the Facebook page as well as the Willingham News. While the desk role of zone rep was open to everyone, including those who were shielding or self isolating, it was vital that the volunteers (known as members) could carry out practical tasks such as shopping, picking up prescriptions and other errands. Their efforts and the close contacts forged led to real friendships across the generations.

A strategic partnership was formed between representatives of the Parish Council, the District

Council, the County Council and local agencies, including Willingham Primary School, Willingham Medical Practice, Willingham Pharmacy, Over Day Centre and Willingham Co-op, with regular meetings being held online, ably chaired by one of the Love Hub organisers.

With the support of Willingham Action Group (WAG) and FECA, an online payment system was set up to allow villagers to transfer funds into an online account, from which volunteers were reimbursed the cost of shopping etc. However, cash, prepaid cards and personal trust soon took over, with payments flowing friction-free between villager and member.

Recently, after over 300 errands executed in the course of 2020, the system has been scaled down to 5 zone reps and around 20 members, with personal relationships (many of them

new) proving sufficient to service those still in need. However, the problem of poverty is now beginning to surface, and Willingham has now established its own emergency food bank, again initiated by the Facebook/Love Hub administrators and operated by a WAG volunteer.

All those involved in the Willingham Love Hub as zone reps and members, and those operating and supporting the food bank deserve the highest praise and gratitude, with admiration unlimited going to the administrators whose efforts and fortitude are difficult to properly convey in words.

WILLINGHAM ♥ HUB

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM GUIDES AND RANGERS

Willingham Guides and Rangers have been meeting every week on Zoom. We started very gently with quizzes and games, but as time has gone on, we have become more adventurous.

So far, we have held two sleepovers which ranged from the girls building dens in the living room, pitching tents (both outdoors and indoors), and one leader slept in a boat in the garden.

We have worked towards programme badges and have held theme evenings. Our first theme evening was a spy evening and ended with them deciphering a code which led them to find the badges they had earned that term hidden in their fridge courtesy of the *Fridge Fairy*.

Before Christmas we took part in the Willingham Advent window. We made origami peace cranes and doves for the Message of Peace. We then took it one step further by joining the Peace Crane Project and exchanging Peace cranes and letters with school children in Poland.

Normally food features regularly at our weekly meetings so this term we have experimented with cooking on Zoom. For *National Granola Bar Day* everyone made granola bars. It was a great success and no clearing up for the leaders! The Rangers then made home-made soup on another evening. A first for many of them.

Our latest themed evening was forensic science evening. Forensic evidence was delivered to every girl and together we worked through the clues including dusting for fingerprints, testing unknown white powder to find out what it was, chromatography to work out who had written the fake suicide note and reproducing the experiment to make a lava that the murder victim was doing when she was killed. With all the evidence tested the killer was identified.

We will continue to meet on Zoom every week until we are able to get back to face-to-face guiding.



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Flooding – Over the Christmas period and New Year, some areas of the village were subjected to flooding. The Council has been liaising with Cambridge County Council and Anglian Water to try and resolve the issues. Many parishioners have been affected by the flooding and, following a well-attended Council meeting on 3 February, the Council are trying to bring all parties together so that a resolution can be found.

Facilities – Although the halls are closed and the football teams are not allowed to play at the moment, we have still been working in the background ready for when things can return to normal.

The Council has recently had two table tennis tables installed on the QEII Field, which, I am sure, will be enjoyed by adults and children alike once the warmer weather returns. We are also in the process of having a covered cycle parking area installed for those who wish to access the facilities on bikes.

We were lucky enough to be awarded a grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council's *Zero Carbon Community Grant* and this along with some £106 monies will see a new heating system installed in the Ploughman Hall. The infrared heating will be more economical to run and will hopefully provide a more pleasant environment for user groups.

Elections – These are due to be held on Thursday 6 May and at the time of writing are still scheduled to go ahead. The Parish Council is made up of 15 seats and both existing councillors and residents wishing to apply to become a councillor can find more information at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england

Donation of Barton's Field – A new recreational amenity for the enjoyment of villagers has been donated to the Parish Council.

Walkers and well-behaved dogs are welcome to explore and use the field, although it must be emphasised that access is via Blackpit Drove which is a private driveway and should not be used by cars. The fields behind are also private, so please do not exit from the far end.



The Field is approximately 2 acres and is on the north-west side of Blackpit Drove. It was once one of many dedicated to growing flowers for sale. The name was suggested by the gentleman

donating the land who said "I bought the field from Douglas Barton. His declaration in 1986 explains that he acquired the land from his father, Donald Barton in 1974 who, in turn acquired it from his father, Charles Barton in 1952. Charles acquired the land in 1937. So, the Barton family had the land for nearly 50 years. When I bought the field in 1986, it was planted with what we called *Demosa* (Statice) and Delphiniums."

The Field is now laid to grass with a small wood top and bottom and planted with an assortment of fruit and smaller trees in the centre. There is a central path winding through and a straight path back down the northern side.

The Parish Council would like to express their gratitude on behalf of the whole village, for this generous donation.

Council meetings – are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month in the Octagon, starting at 7.30pm (meetings are currently being held remotely via Zoom). Agendas are published on the website, the notice board outside the public hall in the High Street, and in the Library. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak briefly or ask questions (see agendas for further details).

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FEN EDGE GROUPS

TRIBUTE TO JACQUI RABBETT

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you of the loss of a longstanding member of Waterbeach Community Association, Jacqui Rabbett, who passed away on 8 December 2020.



Jacqui was an active member of Waterbeach Community Association for many years and took on various responsibilities including the role of Chairperson. In this role Jacqui organised many village events, including the annual Waterbeach Feast, Carols on the Green each Christmas Eve, lunches and a party for senior citizens and the Beach Ball in 2007. She was also a huge part of Beach News the local magazine covering Waterbeach, Landbeach and Chittering.

Jacqui immersed herself into village life, also serving on the PTA, School Governors and Waterbeach Parish Council. She worked at Waterbeach Primary School for more than 20 years, helping and supporting infinite numbers of children.

Jacqui gave her time generously and her selfless efforts for the good of the whole community will never be forgotten. Jacqui will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with her family and friends.

LAPTOPS AND TABLETS FOR HOME-SCHOOLERS

You may decry the advent of the internet and the power of social media, but harnessed in the right way, it can be a real force for good. So it was when Graham Mumby of FECA and Willingham Action Group (WAG) sent out a couple of messages asking if it might be a good idea for WAG, FECA and Willingham School Association (WSA) to fill the gap in the supply of laptops and tablets to home-

schoolers. Links were forged with Willingham Primary School, Cottenham Village College and Councillor Gemma Bailey as a key Cottenham coordinator, and the idea was well received. In Willingham, Marie Clements of WSA put out feelers, posters and Facebook messages, Paul Knighton of WAG provided the collection point, Les Hambly and Martin Smith served as the device cleaner-uppers and Henry Audley-Charles brought in a couple of invaluable and encouraging early contributions as well as providing further support.

In the end, some 33 devices were collected on the Willingham side – all donated by local people freely and in good faith. Some were uprated, others a bit too old but good as sources of additional RAM. Schools require Windows 10 these days, as we found out half way through the project, although web-capable tablets were generally welcome as lesson receiver devices.

The government also delivered on its promise with a batch of 25 new laptops for Willingham Primary School, preceded by a similar number donated by a local Willingham business. Someone even kindly offered £300 as a donation, and the need, as of the time of writing, has quickly become less acute.

In Cottenham, residents were equally generous, donating 40 devices to the effort led by the village *Covid Support Team*. A small number did not meet the schools' specifications and these were securely erased and donated to the Cambridgeshire Youth Panel for use in their laptop refurbishment scheme. The remainder were wiped and refurbished by David Bailey, replacing various switches, keyboards and power supplies with funds raised by the Covid Support Team. The laptops were all then upgraded to Windows 10, to meet the schools' requirements. Further support came from the Histon and Impington initiative, led by Colin and Anya Myles, which donated a surplus of rebuilt devices to the team. This brought to 44 the total number of devices the team was able to supply to Cottenham schools.

The network that Graham spawned quickly grew as the virtual tentacles spread to more and more helpers and donors, and the results were very encouraging – not just in terms of this response but also with respect to possible future initiatives.



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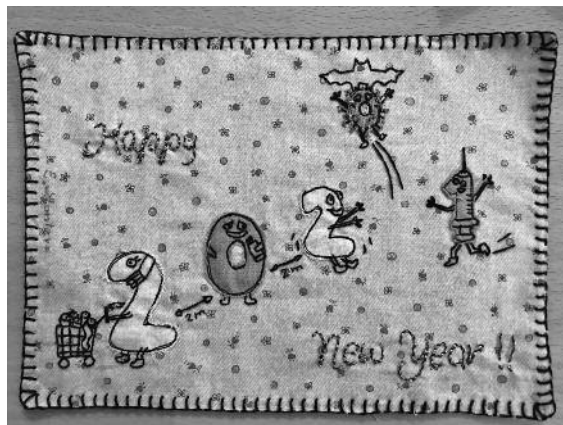
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FEN EDGE GROUPS

STITCHWILD

Like most groups in the Fen Edge region, StitchWild has put face to face meetings on hold. That doesn't mean that we have put our stitching on hold! Most members have continued creating at home, using the internet and social media to share their work. Zoom workshops, WhatsApp groups, subscription-based groups and projects-in-a-box by post have all been instrumental in keeping us learning and sharing. In fact, sharing via the internet and social media has led to a movement called 'craftivism', a term coined by Betsy Greer in her book *Craftivism*.

Craftivism describes a worldwide movement that operates at the intersection of craft and activism. But despite the inherently political definition of the term 'activism', craftivism doesn't push any specific political agenda – it simply accounts for the tangible influence that any socially engaged crafting can have on the world. According to Greer, 'the very essence of craftivism lies in creating something that gets people to ask questions; we invite others to join a conversation about the social and political intent of our creations. It turns us, as well as our work, into vessels of change.' More than anything, it is a humanitarian movement to make an impact on others. It can be used to address social issues, such as the many works produced during Covid lockdown, encouraging the wearing of face coverings, the importance of looking after others, gratitude to the NHS, making face coverings for hospitals workers; or something as simple as knitting scarves and mittens and leaving them on fences and trees for anyone in need to take and use. Even tiny bird's nests have been knitted and donated to bird rescue groups. These examples are all craftivism at work! And here are examples of craftivism by our members:



New Year's fabric greeting card by Esther Montero, celebrating the hope for 2021 that the Covid vaccine will bring.



Self-portrait by Lisa Jenns, which is part of a larger Covid inspired work collated by Sue Brown.

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Let's hope that it won't be long before we are able to share our 'craftivism' in person as well as on-line!

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FEN EDGE GROUPS

THE FARMLAND MUSEUM AND DENNY ABBEY

The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey is a new member of the Fen Edge Community Association – but certainly not new to the Fens; Denny Abbey has been on the site near Waterbeach since 1159!

Located just off the A10, north of Waterbeach, the Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey offers a tranquil space in which to appreciate the beauty of the Fens and learn about the history of this part of rural Cambridgeshire.

The buildings and exhibits tell an 850-year story of farming and rural life in the Cambridgeshire Fens, until the rapid changes brought about by mechanisation in the mid-20th century changed a way of life forever.

Denny Abbey (see front cover), an English Heritage property, is an architectural delight. Visitors can observe how it has been carefully deconstructed to show evidence of the three religious orders who lived there, and its subsequent life as a farmhouse.



The Village Shop

The Farmland Museum – housed in converted farm buildings next to Denny Abbey – presents opportunities to learn about Fenland trades and crafts, historic farming machinery, life in a 1940s farmworker's cottage and village shop, and to see how food was produced from the rich soils of the Fens.

continued on page 53

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FEN EDGE GROUPS

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There's plenty for the younger members of the family too with an outdoor play area and, once Covid-19 measures are relaxed, we'll see the return of the ever-popular *Playshed* with ride-on tractors, farmyard toys, and there are interactive exhibits and activities across the site.

The museum is open seasonally, usually from April until October. 2021 is going to be a little different. The earliest the museum can reopen (at time of writing) is 17 May. We are fortunate, however, to have large grounds and gardens for exercise, so we expect to be able to open these – and our café for takeaway – in time for the Easter holidays at the end of March.

Although we might be closed, we are still sharing our collection online. With over 10,000 Fenland objects, our collection is vast and varied. In our blog (see our website) you can read about all sorts of things from doing the laundry or caring for tractors, to catching eels!

Our museum is run by a very small team of staff with support from lots of wonderful volunteers. We are always on the lookout for more. Volunteers look after our collection, clean and maintain the buildings, welcome visitors and deliver tours. Our children's activities are all volunteer-led. The beautiful cottage garden and allotment are managed by volunteers. If there's a job to be done, you can usually find it being done by a volunteer! If you're looking for an opportunity to learn new skills or get out and meet new people, email our museum manager, Sarah, for a chat at info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk

We are really excited to be part of the Fen Edge Community Association and look forward to seeing many of you at our museum very soon.

For more information and updates on opening days, times and prices, please visit www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk or our Facebook @denny.farmland and Twitter @FarmlandMuseum feeds

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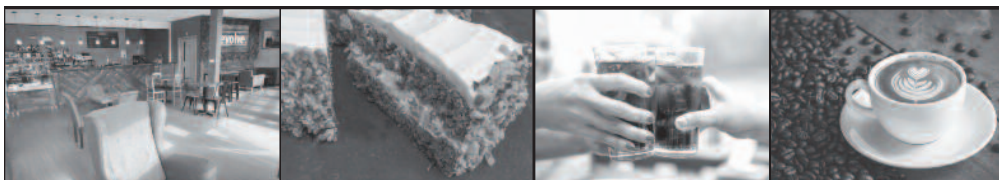
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FEN EDGE GROUPS

ROTARY CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE SOUTH

Club members accepted various challenges (Sue and I walked 40 miles) during December with a view to raising sponsorship of £5,000. Many thanks for your kind generosity. We raised over £7,000 and with club monies from reserves we have made this up to £12,000!

Local Good Causes we are supporting include: *Jimmy's Night Shelter, The Salvation Army, The Arthur Rank Hospice, Cambridge Foodbank, Camsight, The Samaritans, Emmaus and Crisis* homeless charity.

We have also been able to contribute to some good causes locally including *Kids Out Christmas Box* appeal and food bank. Hopefully, we will be able to restart our direct activities (like *Memory Café* at Girton and *Peace Debate*) by this Autumn.

Rotary has 1.2 million members across 200 countries and at an International level, Rotary's effort continues to progress the eradication of Polio worldwide. Working with the World Health Organisation and thousands of

volunteers, Rotary are getting ever nearer worldwide eradication with the whole of Africa being declared Polio (wild virus) free in August. This just leaves Pakistan/Afghanistan.

Immunisation must continue around the world until it is eradicated (like Smallpox which is the only one to date). Rotary describes the activities as *Polio Plus* and it has given, and will give, the infrastructure for many medical benefits including Covid-19 immunisation in many countries.

Our club has planted purple (purple is the symbol for *Polio Plus*) crocuses on Queen's Green, Cambridge as a reminder and has raised funds and contributed to Rotary's charity for this cause. Do think of the *Polio Plus* campaign when you see them in flower.

If you just want to know more about Rotary or our club (which has members from Waterbeach, Cottenham, Cambridge and beyond) and its activities or to consider joining, do get in touch. We are a welcoming club that has fun putting "service above self".

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FEN EDGE GROUPS

FEN EDGE ORCHESTRA

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

Evan Turner directs the orchestra. The standard has improved steadily over the past few years. Two concerts a year are given – usually a winter concert in the warm and pleasant surroundings of Histon Baptist Church, and a summer concert in Cottenham Parish Church, where there is always an enthusiastic welcome.

The orchestra performs a varied menu of music; classics, such as Beethoven and Haydn symphonies, some early music, and some more contemporary repertoire. A lighter programme is usually devised for the biennial Fen Edge Festival.

There are no auditions to join the orchestra. Many members arrive after a long break from playing, or when they are learning an instrument and have reached the stage when they are ready to play with other people.

On the website link below there is more information and a contact page, and interested players are invited to get in touch. If there is a place available for the instrument in question, then you would be asked to come along to a Wednesday rehearsal. If there is no place at the time of the enquiry, you will be put on a waiting list and contacted when there is a vacancy.

At the time of writing (March 2021) the orchestra is waiting for the exciting moment when it can rehearse regularly again. This is likely to be in June at the earliest. The orchestra met several times for Covid-19 secure rehearsals in the Autumn Term 2020, when risk assessments were written and put in place. Please refer to the website for up-to-date information: www.fenedgeorchestra.wordpress.com



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