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

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE



I hope that this message finds you all well and perhaps even enjoying the summer break and some nice weather.

We held our second Annual General Meeting via Zoom in May and I would like

to use the opportunity to reflect on recent FECA activity and the year ahead. It was very pleasing to see so many organisations represented. For FECA, 2020/1 was a year that presented many challenges but equally some highlights. In terms of challenges, many of our member organisations' activities were suspended during the lockdown and we are very conscious of the potential need to support these groups as they seek to re-establish their normal activities.

Obviously, one of the greatest disappointments was that we had to cancel the *Fen Edge Festival* that would have taken place this June. It was the right decision as it was just too difficult to make the commitments and plan the event against the backdrop of such uncertainty. There is every hope that the deferral will just be a year and the event will take place in June 2022, with planning starting later this year. I know everyone will be very keen to know the dates so that they can plan and have something to look forward to. I am pleased to be able to announce that the provisional dates will be 24–26 June. Obviously, there is still a lot of uncertainty about the shape of the event and what will be possible but we are very interested to hear from anyone wishing to get involved in the organisation of the festival.

However, it was also a year in which FECA stepped up to many challenges. In terms of the Covid-19 support, FECA enabled the re-purposing of the *Fun Run* online entry platform to a kitty system to support shopping for shielding residents. The system has since processed over £10,000 worth of shopping. We are very proud to have been part of the Covid-19 support groups' efforts in Cottenham and Willingham.

We are also proud of the grants that continued through the year including the largest grant that FECA has ever awarded that was given to the Village College towards a new audio-visual system.

In total, during 2020/21, grants of just over £8,000 were made.

We suspended membership fees in 2020/21 for our member groups. A very small gesture in recognition of the financial pressures. Our current membership stands at 71 organisations, community groups and charities which is double the number of members from 5 years ago and reflects the increasing value and profile of FECA in the community. It is particularly pleasing that we have seen new members in Willingham such as Willingham Parish Council and most recently Willingham Cricket Club.

Overall, not a year we will remember with any fondness, but FECA remains a very active organisation that is proud of its success in supporting other local organisations, groups and charities.

Lastly, I wish to thank the Management Committee for all their efforts over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank Tony Blick, who is stepping down from FECA, but who has done much in a short period of time to strengthen the link between Cottenham Village College and FECA. The meetings have continued regularly on Zoom and I don't think we missed a beat. This was also the first year operating under the new Constitution which has established a much clearer and more robust governance structure.

Neil Gough,
Chair, Fen Edge Community Association

FEN EDGE EVENTS DIARY

What's on and when in the villages

AUGUST

Thu 5–Fri 6 10am–4pm The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey – Teddy Bears Picnic: *Free with entry to museum.* (p57)

Sat 7 10am–4pm The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey – Farmland Museum Fete: *Free with entry to museum.* (p57)

Thu 12–Sun 15 10am–4pm The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey – Medieval Week: *Free with entry to museum.* (p57)

Thu 19–Sun 22 10am–4pm The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey – Tudor Week: *Free with entry to museum.* (p57)

Thu 26–Sun 28 10am–4pm The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey – 1940s Week: *Free with entry to museum.* (p57)

Sat 28 2pm Friends of Worts Meadow – Pond Dipping at Worts Meadow (p29)

Sun 29–Mon 30 10am–4pm The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey – WWII Weekend Event: *Free with entry to museum.* (p57)

SEPTEMBER

Fri 3 Cottenham Theatre Workshop – Rehearsals begin for *Treasure Island* (p17)

Sun 5 2–5pm Sustainable Cottenham – Vegfest at Cottenham Allotments and Recreation Ground Pavilion (p21)

Fri 10 7.30pm Cottenham Village Society – AGM & Talk: *Cottenham's historic buildings* at Cottenham Village Hall (p15)

Mon 13 7.30pm Willingham Women's Institute – Social evening: *Photo quiz and jigsaw swap* at Willingham Social Club (p45)

Wed 15 7.30pm Landbeach Society – Talk & AGM: *Ponds and Greens of Landbeach* by Fen Edge Archaeology Group at Landbeach Village Hall (p29)

Sat 18 9am Rampton Horse Show – (p41)

Sat 18 11am–5pm Landbeach Tithe Barn Trust – Heritage Open Day (p25)

Sun 19 10am–4pm The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey – Heritage Open Day: *Free entry to museum for all* (p57)

Fri 24 7.30pm Cottenham Gardeners Club – Talk: *Winter Colour in the Garden* by Geoff Hodge at Franklin Gardens Community Room (p13)

OCTOBER

Sun 3 Willingham Wheels – Over Day Centre Bike Rides at Over Day Centre (p47)

Fri 8 7.30pm Cottenham Village Society – Talk: *Hobson's Conduit* by Howard Slatter at Cottenham Village Hall (p15)

Mon 11 7.30pm Willingham Women's Institute – Talk at Willingham Social Club (p45)

Sun 31 10am–4pm The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey – Halloween Special: *Free with entry to museum.* (p57)

NOVEMBER

Sat 6 9am–12pm Landbeach Tithe Barn Trust – Outdoor Gym (p25)

Mon 8 7.30pm Willingham Women's Institute – Talk at Willingham Social Club (p45)

Fri 12 7.30pm Cottenham Village Society – Talk: *Cottenham Then and Now* by Ralph Carpenter at Cottenham Village Hall (p15)

Sat 20–Sun 21 Ramparts – Exhibition at Rampton Village Hall (p41)

From the Editor

Gentle readers, welcome to the Autumn 2021 edition of the Fen Edge News.

Fen Edge Community Association's (FECA) object is to benefit the community by supporting clubs, groups and societies which improve the educational, social, recreational and leisure facilities in the area of the Fen Edge Patch.

The editorial content of this magazine is provided by the FECA member organisations. Delivered to 7,400 homes in the Fen Edge Patch (Cottenham, Landbeach, Rampton, Waterbeach and Willingham), it enables our members to communicate with their membership and the wider community.

It's great to see such a wide range of interests and activities reflected here, such as: local charities, churches, youth activities, sports of many types (including active and serene), leisure activities, care, local history, the theatre, the

environment, nature, crafts, dancing and music. It's also great to see things starting to open up, post Covid-19.

If you are a local club, group or society and want to see your words on these pages why not join FECA by signing up here:

www.fenedge.co.uk/join-fen-edge-community-association

The advertising in this magazine provides funds that FECA uses to make grants to member organisations, such as to the Cottenham Community Allotment, appearing for the first time in this edition.

So, it's a big thank you to the member organisations who support FECA by providing articles. And another big thank you to local businesses that support FECA financially by advertising. Without either FECA would not be able to function as effectively.

Adrian Stephens

Editor, Fen Edge News

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

We are now open each Sunday at 10.30am for our morning service in the building, as well as continuing online. Anyone is welcome to join us, either by coming to the building or logging in online each Sunday. For more details of this please take a look at our website (www.cottenhambaptist.org.uk).

During the week we are continuing with online meetings as well as Foodbank deliveries to those who need them. Unfortunately, due to changed circumstances during the lockdowns, we are unable to restart our under-1s group, but we continue to have a Facebook presence if you have any questions or would like any support during your child's first year. For updates on what is running when, and upcoming events either like our page on Facebook or go to our website. If you need more urgent help, please call 01954 252378.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH COTTENHAM WITH RAMPTON

As Covid-19 restrictions begin to ease we see the return of some normality for our villages and our lives. Although both churches have remained open throughout the pandemic for use as a quiet space and private prayer, we are very pleased to be holding services again in the church building. The online offering will continue for some time but do think about joining us in All Saints' Cottenham for one of our live services.

May saw the start of an exciting new type of worship and the launch of *Worship in the Woods*. This has provided a safe way of meeting, outside, to worship God through nature. God has so much to say to us through his creation, as the seasons change, we can discover new things about God's world and God's creation. We plan to meet monthly so check our Facebook page for information about the next one!

The last year has also provided us with the opportunity to look at how we offer the use of All Saints' Hall to the village and we are very pleased to announce that we now have office space for hire. We have a first-floor office measuring 3.3m by 6.8m available now with parking for one car park space, Wi-Fi and small kitchen area included and the use of shared toilet facilities. For more information email admin@allsaintscottenham.org.uk

We really look forward to hosting some more events over the summer to help bring the village together again, look out for more information on our website or Facebook page.

COTTENHAM COMMUNITY LAND TRUST LIMITED

Our aim remains to deliver a number of locally-affordable homes in and around Cottenham, although progress is slow, partly as a result of Covid-19.

Cottenham's Neighbourhood Plan, which makes the case for around 90 locally-affordable homes over and above the approved developments, is now "made" and forms part of the Local Plan used to determine planning applications in Cottenham. It goes beyond just numbers of houses so is well worth a read.

Thanks to all the local people who overwhelmingly supported it at the referendum and the Parish Council and District Council for their support.

We developed a preliminary proposition for a site in Cottenham but the landowners pulled out. We are now reviewing some alternative options. If one is near you, please don't resist it out of hand; there are many local people who will benefit from a house that only cost them around 3 times their household income. Better yet, if you know somewhere, do let us know.

The demise of James Palmer, as Mayor of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, has affected our approach in three ways. He was a champion of the CLT approach and we planned to utilise both his £44million revolving loan fund and £100K home initiatives, which both look as if they will disappear with him. It remains to be seen how far the state will go in providing locally-affordable homes around here.

Another worrying development is that Wilburton Parish Council, which had recently voted to support a CLT planning application despite a number of resident objections, has suffered a vote of no confidence calling on them all to resign. The poll, called by their Annual Parish Meeting, is not legally binding but will nevertheless influence Planners at East Cambridgeshire District Council, which has previously been very supportive of CLTs.

Although by no means over, relaxations in protective procedures should allow us to rebuild a proposition and proceed before too long.

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

LADYBIRD PRE-SCHOOL



Ladybird Pre-school is a community-based, charity-run childcare provider that offers term-time childcare for children aged 2–5 in Cottenham and the surrounding villages. We are situated in Cottenham on the

recreation ground, next to the Village Hall. We first opened in November 1994 – back then, we were an amalgamation of three smaller pre-schools and had no building from which to operate. With thanks to our Deputy Manager Carolynn and her fundraising efforts, along with the Parish Council, the building was constructed and Ladybird Pre-school was born.

We offer part-day or full-day sessions between 9am and 3pm, working across three learning spaces (Green, Red and Blue). We work closely with Cottenham Primary School and offer School Readiness sessions to children who are in their pre-school year. The purpose of these sessions is to ease the transition into school, equipping the children with some of the key skills required when starting their school journey.

Thanks to a National Lottery grant and a whole lot of fundraising, we have a beautiful garden, which includes; an allotment for growing our own fruit and vegetables, a fairy reading garden, large boat, mud kitchen and balance beam.

Our dynamic curriculum is centred around play, and facilitated by our experienced and passionate staff who are committed to ensuring that all children develop and progress. We use Tapestry online learning journals to document the children's development and to engage with families through regular observations, photographs and conversations.

As an inclusive educational setting, we welcome all children and celebrate differences. We happily accommodate children with additional needs and work closely with families, and the local authority, to ensure that we offer appropriate levels of support. Ladybird Pre-school is operated by a management team and supported by a parent committee and fundraising team. We are very proud to take part in many community events around the village; many of you may recall our popular Pimm's stall or our decorated floats at the Feast.

We currently have spaces for September, so please do get in touch or see our website/Facebook page for more details.

Tel: 01954 250891

Office@ladybirdpreschool.org

Manager@ladybirdpreschool.org

COTTENHAM GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS



Girlguiding needs you!

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. Being involved in

guiding is a fantastic opportunity. In Cottenham we have 2 Rainbows, 2 Brownies and 2 Guide units.

But our Guides in Cottenham need your help.

Cottenham currently has two very active and busy Guide units that meet on a Tuesday and Thursday evening for 1.5 hours. From September we would love leaders to come forward to help with our Tuesday unit. Guides is for girls aged between 10–14 years and they have an exciting and varied programme designed to inspire and challenge them.

Girlguiding welcomes volunteers from all backgrounds, ages, cultures, faiths and abilities.

Please think about volunteering and make new friends, become part of a world-wide organisation, learn new skills and share the things we enjoy with the next generation. No experience is needed. We can offer flexibility and a fully supported training scheme.

For an informal chat and to talk through what's involved please contact Deanna Raven on deannaraven@btinternet.com





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FECA IN COTTENHAM



COTTENHAM TENNIS CLUB

The members of Cottenham Tennis Club were delighted to be able to start playing again in April this year, when the lockdown was partially

relaxed. Whilst life is still not back to normal, we seem to have had a real boost. In the Fen Edge Patch tennis is

from established club members giving them the confidence to play more. We are hoping to recruit some of them to boost the club's teams very soon! The courts are busier than we have ever seen them and we have strong players coming to club night. We should now be able to field two men's teams in the winter league matches, which will be a first for Cottenham! We now have 100 people in tennis coaching around the patch, including the school breakfast clubs run by *Game Set Tennis*, which provide an

introduction to youngsters at the Primary Schools (and maybe some early morning child care?)

Our membership has more than doubled since last year; we now have over 80 members and are still growing, with members from across the Fen Edge Patch; Cottenham, Rampton, Waterbeach, Willingham and Northstowe.

We have also initiated a day-time session for children aged 3-4 at the grass courts on the Recreation Ground. This was fully booked for the second half of the summer term – lots of fun has been had by the tots learning rudimentary ball skills whilst socialising. It's a great

opportunity to get the children outside in the fresh air, keeping them active and busy as well as a chance for parents and carers to link up.

Another first was our half-term tennis camp held at the CVC courts in June. This was well attended despite being the first opportunity many had to go on holiday, and feedback was universally positive. Hopefully we will be able to run many more holiday clubs.

The grass courts are looking good and being well used. The bounce is interesting and keeps you on your toes but it's a lovely place to be now the weather is so good for grass tennis, and lovely to see the recreation ground being so well used. Thanks must go to Andrew the groundsman and to the parish council for supporting this.

The Tennis Club has had two lads volunteering for their Duke of Edinburgh award by helping with the youngest children's sessions, and other teenagers are also helping out with coaching. This provides an opportunity for those already in the coaching programme to earn some



Beginner Coaching. Photo by Lou Cooke.

now busier than ever, with our Wednesday social evening and our coaching sessions brimming with enthusiastic members, both beginners and more experienced players. On your walks you may have noticed our new sign outside the Village College, (below the football and behind the care home signs!) Thank you to the sports centre for giving us permission for this. Our new Tennis Xpress adult beginner courses, funded by a generous grant from the Cooperative community fund have been fully booked. We have run two of these so far and have one more planned for September. All participants have been offered reduced-price membership and further coaching thanks to further funding. To cater for the increased demand for beginner classes we have opened up a new class specifically to follow on from these Tennis Xpress courses. It's been great to see how the beginners from last year have progressed to become intermediate club players. This is thanks to the excellent coaching we have from the team at *Game Set Tennis*, and to encouragement

continued on page 13

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CAMBRIDGE'S HIGHEST PASS RATE

FECA IN COTTENHAM

continued from page 11

pocket money and put into practice the drills that they have learned in their lessons. If any others youngsters are interested in helping with coaching sessions they can enquire to Lou Cooke, the club secretary.

We have been participating in the local leagues, Ladies, Men's and shortly the Mixed matches will start. As usual we have had mixed results. The Ladies have won one, drawn one and lost one match, and are currently 5th in their group having won 140 games and lost 117. We are happy with this as we would hate to be promoted and face teams who thrash us every time! Whatever the result we are enjoying meeting varied oppositions and visiting their clubs and facilities. Because of Covid-19 we are missing the post-match pub suppers though! The men have had similar results, lost 2, won 2 and drawn 1 match. They stand 4th in their group having won 174 games and lost 175. On a knife edge! They will be bolstered in the next few weeks by some returning university students who lower our age profile and improve our standard considerably! Thanks as always to Amber and Adam, the Sports Centre staff, Andrew King and the Parish Council for helping us along and to our excellent coaching team from *Game Set Tennis* with a special welcome to our new coach Alex Wilson.

For information about the club and membership visit www.cottenhamtennis.co.uk or email the club secretary at info@cottenhamtennis.co.uk

For information about coaching contact Toby Jackson at *Game Set Tennis* on 07972 149874, or toby@gamesettennis.co.uk, www.gamesettennis.co.uk

COTTENHAM BOWLS CLUB

Bowling is back at Cottenham Bowls Club and it has been great to be in the fresh air, meeting people and getting some gentle exercise. All Covid-19 safe, of course.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to run our open triples competition or any of our usual social events but hopefully they will resume soon.

In September we are hoping to start our indoor short mat bowling season which runs from September until April. This is a great way to spend an afternoon when the weather is cold and the days short. If you are interested in joining us, please

contact one of the people shown below.

Glen Clarke 01954 250085, Eric Hobbs 01954 251956, Christine Forster 01954 200720

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

COTTENHAM GARDENERS' CLUB

Cottenham Gardeners' Club meets at Franklin Gardens Community Room, usually on the last Friday of the month, with refreshments served from 7.30pm, followed by a talk starting at 7.45pm. The evening closes with a raffle, for which prizes are welcome.

Although there is still some uncertainty, the committee hopes that club activity will resume in September.

Our speaker on **Friday 24 September** will be Geoff Hodge, Gardening Writer and Radio Presenter, talking about *Winter Colour in the Garden*.

This has been postponed from September last year. Both speakers for October and November from last year's programme have decided to retire, so the talks for the meetings on 29 October and 26 November remain a mystery at present.

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

COTTENHAM CARE CAR

During the first lockdown we were unable to provide the service because most of our drivers were vulnerable: in any case, we simply had no requests!

However, in June last year we re-started with just six brave drivers (the *Fabulous Few*), under strict Covid precautions and for medical appointments only.

During that period and up to the time of writing, we managed to fulfil every request.

Recently, with the partial easing, we are gradually getting more drivers available as they become vaccinated. However, we are still not getting many requests. It may be that soon we can make a cautious start on some social appointments. Then, hopefully, we may get back to somewhere near to where we were.

Please do not hesitate to call us if you need help with transport, even on the same day if it's for urgent matters. We may not have anyone available but it is always worth a try.

Gerry Brett, Coordinator, 01954 251929 or 07731 639799

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

The month of March this year saw the start of the brand-new Cottenham Community Allotment, set up as a place to grow fruit, vegetables and other plants, and a place where people in Cottenham can connect with each other through these activities. It is an exciting project designed to serve the community and encourage positive wellbeing for all ages – a place where those in need of support can meet others over the shared activity of gardening.



So far, thanks to a grant from FECA, we have been able to create a small shelter for community activities, improve our greenhouse, and of course plant and grow various fruit and vegetables. We have held two open days during June and July and regularly hold volunteer weekends every other weekend. Although many people have already shown interest in being involved, we are still looking for volunteers who can join us, either on a regular or occasional basis. We are also beginning to harvest what has grown over the last few months so look out for us sharing our produce with the community. We are still in the early stages, but as we develop, we hope groups and individuals will be able to come to the allotment to share expertise, as well as learn and try their hand at growing and nurturing plants and vegetables. Our hope in the longer term is that the allotment will not only provide produce for those who volunteer; but also provide food for those in need within our village. If you can help or would like to find out more about the allotment, please contact us via email at cottenham.allotment@gmail.com or find us on Facebook under Cottenham Community Allotment. Kate, Sue, Cecilia and David

COTTENHAM WI

Like everyone else, we are looking forward to opening up again. Our first meeting will be a celebration of togetherness and after that we are hoping to have some comedy fun and then get creative.

All Covid-19 precautions will be followed, hand sanitiser and air circulation. Masks may be worn.

We will be meeting on the 2nd Wednesday each month, 7.30pm at the new village hall. Look out for the posters around the village once it is confirmed restrictions have been lifted.

For further information ring Margaret 01954 488427

COTTENHAM VILLAGE SOCIETY

Cottenham Village Society was founded just over 50 years ago. Our aim is to encourage awareness and participation in our village community and the history of the village as well as entertaining our members with local history talks. The society has produced various publications by Village Society members including Francis Garrett who was well known for his double act with Mervyn Haird showing slides of historic Cottenham. This tradition continues to this day, albeit with more modern equipment!

We meet at the Village Hall, off Lambs Lane. Doors open at 7.15pm to start at 7.30pm on the second Friday of each month. Subscriptions are due in September.

10 September – AGM followed by an illustrated talk about Cottenham's historic buildings.

8 October – *Hobson's Conduit* by Howard Slatter, ex-chairman of Hobson's Conduit Trust.

12 November – *Cottenham Then and Now* an illustrated armchair tour of parts of old Cottenham by Ralph Carpenter.

For the most up to date information (in case we have to cancel) please check our website.

Please book in advance with Glynis, the secretary, as we may have to restrict numbers.

Secretary telephone 01954 251544

Email cottvillsoc@gmail.com,
(www.cottenhamvillagesociety.wordpress.com)

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM THEATRE WORKSHOP



Are you ready to walk the plank? Cottenham Theatre Workshop are delighted to announce that the pantomime has been decided for 2021 and this year it is *Treasure Island*!

Following on from nearly a

year and a half of not performing, we are thrilled to be able to finally re-tread those boards (or planks in this case!) and bring you a show which promises to have a lot of unexpected twists and turns!

This version of *Treasure Island*, written by acclaimed pantomime playwright Ben Crocker and directed by our long-term member and friend Kerry O'Connell centres around Long John Silver being that usual dastardly villain, but he's not had to deal with the Ladies of the Smuggler's Cove Women's Institute! Including a search for buried treasure, pirates in frocks, and a group of hardened members of the W.I. who are desperate for a career change, this show promises to serve up all the classic pantomime tropes with a few surprises thrown in.

The show will run from **Wednesday 1 December** to **Saturday 4 December** at Cottenham Village College. Weekday performances begin at 7.30pm and there are two performances on Saturday 4 December; a matinee showing at 1pm and an evening showing at 5.30pm.

Tickets will be available towards the end of October on our website www.cottenhamtheatre.com or via our third-party provider Ticketsource by calling 0333 666 4466 (additional booking fee applies).

Although the principal roles have been cast, we'd still love to see some new chorus members to join our friendly troupe! Full rehearsals will start at the beginning of September.

Finally, you don't just have to be on stage to be a part of CTV, we're always looking for new volunteers in our backstage and front of house teams.

If you've got any questions, please feel free to contact us at cottenhamtheatre@gmail.com or visit our website. Also follow us on our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/cottenhamtheatre

We hope to see many of you at the performances – enjoy the show!

COTTENHAM UNITED F.C.

As a result of the last lockdown after Christmas, Cambridgeshire FA decided that the 2020/21 season would be null and void. So, very sadly, that was that.

Well almost. The FA also decided that, as things were opening up for sports clubs in April, they would put on a series of Cup competitions for Clubs to enter, if they so wished. The competitions would commemorate 30 years of sponsorship by the Kershaw Group and would involve the season being extended into June!

We entered our 1st team in the *30 Year Senior Cup* and our reserves in the *30 Year Junior Cup*. The reserves performed creditably but went out in the group stage.

The 1st team made it right through to the senior final, which was a terrific achievement by manager Chris Hancock and the players.

Owing to some controversy when our opponents were disqualified, the match had to be postponed

until just before the 2021/22 season so, although it's a disappointment that we weren't able to get things done in June, we are all looking forward to a great day out when it all actually happens!

And that brings me on nicely to the new season. We are always on the lookout for new players who can join us and help the Club to move forward. Training for both 1st team and reserves will have started by the time you are reading this but please do come along if you are interested. Training is every Monday and Wednesday from 6.30pm at Cottenham recreation ground off Lambs Lane.

Perhaps you have just moved into the area, or are planning to come soon, and are looking for a chance to play close to home.

We are a really friendly bunch and you'll be most welcome. 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.

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SJP11709 V1 (12/19)

FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM CRICKET CLUB

At the time of writing, we are halfway through the season – and it's been one which, despite the pervasive presence of Covid-19, has been able to proceed in a pretty normal fashion. The weather has, for the most part, been pretty good and both our senior teams are holding their own well. It's just been fantastic to get out there and play cricket again. In addition, our under-15 junior side has been playing throughout the school term and has competed well against some very strong opposition. We have been able to give some of this young team an introduction to men's cricket in our 2nd XI (and one has actually played for our 1st XI) where they have performed really encouragingly. This is something we intend to continue and expand throughout the second half of the season.

Our young players are absolutely critical to the Club and we really do need to develop an effective supply of young cricketers who can move into our senior sides and keep the Club progressing. On this theme, we are absolutely committed to offering more coaching to local youngsters ages 5–15. As has been pointed out many times, they get very little opportunity to watch top class cricket on TV these days and it's therefore pretty much down to us to give them the chance to learn the game and discover the huge enjoyment that can be found in developing their skills in all aspects of this fantastic sport. To achieve this, we really do, please, need more help and support. We are very much on the lookout for adults (ideally parents) from the village or nearby who would be willing to join us to assist with the coaching and administration of our junior groups. So, if you have a child who has an interest in, and a bit of aptitude for, cricket and would like to improve their skills and have some fun with their friends – or even if you haven't and simply love the game and would like to get involved – please do get in touch with any one of us (below) so that we can then work together to get as many of our local youngsters as possible playing and enjoying our wonderful game.

It will be late in the season by the time you read this but we are always keen to welcome any cricketers in the neighbourhood who are not playing for us

and might be interested in joining the Club. We have practice nets every week until the end of August so please just contact any one of us (below) to find out more. Just come along – you'll be guaranteed a very warm welcome!

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)

www.cottenham.play-cricket.com

@CottenhamCricket

COTTENHAM DAY CENTRE

Cottenham Day Centre has been closed since March 2020 due to the pandemic, but we are hopeful of starting up again soon. Our members are anxious to start coming back to us as soon as they possibly can.

To enable us to reopen when circumstances allow, we are in badly in need of volunteers to help us; any assistance is welcome. We can only meet thanks to the help of many kind people in our village. We have a range of roles and we aim to establish a rota so that volunteers can have flexibility in regard to what time they can give.

We meet on Tuesdays at 9.30am–2pm in the Coolidge Gardens community room. We had a membership of approximately 30 people up to last year. We have, unfortunately, lost a few of our members over the last two years but we would like to build up again with new members when we reopen. Anyone over the age of 65 would be very welcome. The pandemic has taken its toll on all of us but we hope that with the reopening we can all have a happy and contented life again. If you would like to become a member in the future, please use contact details below.

If you are able to offer help please contact:

Chair: Mrs Maire Collins, 01954 200873,

chair@cottenhamdaycentre.co.uk

Vice-Chair: Mrs Pauline Brown, 01954 250035 or

07708 425720, pauline606@btinternet.com



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

SUSTAINABLE COTTENHAM



The Cottenham 'Vegfest' will be at Cottenham allotments and the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground on **Sunday 5 September**, 2-5pm. Drop by for all things veg and fruity – refreshments with VI home-

baked veg-themed cakes (free tastings!), veg discovery trail, kids 'have a grow', composting 'know-how', and a quiz and games. Access will be from Rampton Road (on foot only) or from the Village Hall car park. Wheelchairs or buggies can access the Pavilion but not the allotments. This new event is an initiative by Sustainable Cottenham Eco Eats and is supported by Cottenham Community Allotment and Cottenham VI.

Eat For the Earth – Ever wondered if what you eat really has an effect on climate change? Yes, it does! The world's food system is responsible for over one quarter of the planet-warming greenhouse gases that humans generate each year. That includes raising and harvesting all the plants, animals and animal products we eat, as well as processing, packaging and shipping that food all over the world. Cambridge Sustainable Food and the Zero Carbon Communities Fund from South Cambridgeshire District Council are running a district-wide campaign to promote the reduction of CO₂ emissions by adopting a Climate Diet. What is a Climate Diet? A Climate Diet will help transform the global food system. A planet-friendly diet embraces plants as a source of protein, and recommends a reduction in our consumption of meat and dairy products by placing vegetables and pulses at the centre of the table. A diet rich in plant-based foods and with fewer animal-source foods offers both improved health and environmental benefits.

Cottenham Eco Eats is supporting the Climate Diet campaign. Join in at any time – the campaign runs to mid-August. Go to cambridgesustainablefood.org for the latest mini challenge together with meal plans, recipes and tips for advice and inspiration, as well as events such as live online cook-a-longs with local chefs. Get a local slant from our Sustainable Cottenham Facebook page; and let us have your tips, ideas or

challenge successes – send to chris@sustainablecottenham.org.uk

Nature Recovery in Cottenham – A new Nature Recovery group has been formed by Sustainable Cottenham to try to address the climate emergency by reversing some of the ecological damage experienced by the village in recent years. Our wild plants and creatures need our help to increase and flourish again.

Looking at our local environment, some initial priorities have been identified alongside more ideas for the long-term vision. Aided by two of the staff of the Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, site meetings are taking place to draw up proposals. These will sometimes be for very simple changes of management, while others may involve teams of volunteers getting dirty and sweaty helping to improve village woodlands. To achieve good and lasting results we will need support from villagers and the Parish Council. As the plans progress, announcements and calls for help will appear on the Sustainable Cottenham website and Facebook. To offer support and be involved please contact us through the Sustainable Cottenham links below.

Sustainable Cottenham:
www.sustainablecottenham.org.uk
www.facebook.com/suscottenham

COTTENHAM CHARITIES

In 1871 a local newspaper expressed the opinion that "We are astonished to see how rich is the town of Cottenham in Charities, those monuments of the piety and philanthropy of our ancestors". One of those charities celebrates its 350th anniversary this year. *John Moreton's Almshouse Charity* was created on 26 August 1671 when John Moreton conveyed to Dr John Pepys and others of Cottenham half the rental of houses in Holborn, London, for poor relief and for apprenticing in the village. Today the charity is part of Cottenham Charities which owns the almshouses and the allotments in the village. The charity provides grants for essential household or disability items and grant applications can be considered throughout the year. More details and an application form are available on the website www.cottenhamcharities.co.uk



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COTTENHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE



Cottenham Community Centre

The **Coffee Shop** is now open 10am-2pm, six days a week.

Do visit and support 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. There is some outside seating available.

Jane, Tricia, and the team look forward to welcoming you.

Enjoy a great coffee or tea or hot chocolate, delicious scones and cake or great light lunch from our menu.

Classes and room hire – Many of our classes (e.g., Pilates, Yoga, adult dance, children's dance, children's art) are running again or will be starting soon. Do check with the class leader or the community centre whether spaces are available.

Room Hire (including for children's parties) – subject to the Covid rules at the time, there are three rooms (main hall, studio, coffee shop) for hire (Full entertainment licence etc 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. For other enquiries see the website or email bookings@cottenhamcc.org

Events – Community Cinema on the **first Sunday of the month**. Films start at 7.30pm. See top-class films at a low 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 Easy Fundraising or Amazon Smile for Cottenham Community Centre. It costs you no more, and we will then receive a small percentage.

Visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/about> or www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cottenhamcc

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

Office available – We have a central heated ground floor office (4.5 x 3.3m quiet room in the heart of Cottenham, in the same building as the coffee shop) available on licence. Could be shared, possibly as a collaboration hub or hot desking for a few people. Updated secondary double glazing, modern lighting with newly refurbished, shared kitchen facilities and toilets. Very good Wi-Fi. Do get in touch if you are interested. bookings@cottenhamcc.org or 07896 194291

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.

If you would like to run a class such as a baby group (e.g., Little Humbugs) on behalf of the centre, please contact bookings@cottenhamcc.org or 07896 194291

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. bookings@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.

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

www.cottenhamcc.org

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FECA IN LANDBEACH

TITHE BARN TRUST



Outside view during Art Exhibition.

May and June saw three highly successful events at Landbeach tithe barn.

On 22 May the Histon Country Pop-up Market proved very popular with the ~150 visitors that came, admired and purchased a wide range of locally-made products. One week later saw a one-day display of artworks by local artist Maureen Mace, members of the Cambridge Drawing society and students at Rowan (a Cambridge-based charity providing an arts centre and forest school for more than 80 adults with learning disabilities). The exhibition was viewed by over 230 visitors and the purchases made resulted in a healthy donation to the *Spend a Penny* campaign (below).

The weekends of 12–13 and 19–20 June saw *Covid Dreams*, an innovative and thought-provoking art installation by Gideon Pain and Theo Gayer-Anderson exploring the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on all our lives. Visited over the two weekends by over 160 people, *Covid Dreams* was highly hands-on with visitors of all ages encouraged to listen to local testimonies on old-fashioned black telephones and write the names of people they wish to remember onto an upturned boat.



Kazubuloos in position (artist's impression)

Improving Landbeach tithe barn – Spend a Penny campaign progress

Our major goal for this year is to install two eco-friendly toilets for the use of visitors to the barn. Called Kazubuloos, these are an alternative to a composting toilet and don't require any water, electricity or chemicals. They are self-contained, low maintenance and are suitable for high-capacity use, which makes them ideal for the barn, making it a better place to visit, hire and enjoy. Having these on site will make a huge difference to the ways the barn can be used as a local community asset. Planning permission for the loos has already been granted so now its full steam ahead to raise the £30,000 needed to install them. We are making bids for grant funding and have already raised over £11,800 (plus Gift Aid) from 59 fantastic local donors. The commitment of local people is really important in showing funding bodies that there is lots of local support.

You too can help make this a reality by making a donation (large or small). If you spent a penny in the year 1500 (when Henry VII was King) you'd be spending over £5 today, so we would love it if you would donate at least £5 to our *Spend a Penny* campaign. The more you can contribute, the sooner we can have these wonderful facilities in use and reach another milestone in turning Landbeach tithe barn into an asset valued by the local and regional community.

Another way you can make a contribution –

Join our friendly family of helpers!

Make new friends, work in an amazing space and know that you're helping a great cause – three fabulous reasons to get volunteering. We are looking for people to help out on open days and/or to contribute as Event Volunteers or Learning Volunteers. Whether you can make a regular commitment or just spare the odd few hours, we have opportunities for you to contribute to the future of this remarkable barn. Email tithebarntrust@gmail.com or see our volunteering page to find out more about the opportunities.

Activities to enjoy at Landbeach tithe barn

From 27 June – Yoga at the barn. Cambridge-based outdoor wellbeing and yoga coach Julie Davis is offering yoga classes suitable both for beginners and more experienced practitioners together at the tithe barn on **Sundays from 27 June**, at 10am. Details can be seen on: www.strongsupplesound.net/service-page/sunday-10am-yoga-at-landbeach-tithe-barn. Booking is essential.

continued on page 27



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FECA IN LANDBEACH

continued from page 25

Saturday 18 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. More details to be released.

Saturday 6 November, 9am-12 noon –

Outdoor Gym at the Tithe Barn. Free 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.

To find out more about the barn, what's on and the plans for its future, go to

<https://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.



Art Exhibition. Photo: Tithe Barn Trust

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*For opening hours see our website

FECA IN LANDBEACH

FRIENDS OF WORTS MEADOW

This past winter Worts Meadow and Bourne Wood suffered extensive flooding, with ducks (and children) enjoying paddling around in mini-lakes formed by water lying in the furrows of the ancient ridge and furrow farming system. The moat around the site of the old manor

flooded out across the meadow into the road ditch, but also out through the gate and down the road. On Christmas Day you could almost have sailed a toy yacht down the stream of water. The wildlife ponds were all full, in contrast to the end of the summer when they almost dried out. Now the warmth and rain have resulted in lush vegetation both within and outside the ponds (and extra-tall 'weeds' in my garden) and plenty of dragonflies and damselflies dipping their tails into the ponds to lay their eggs. Hopefully by the time of our pond dipping (below) there will be plenty of 'dragons' to see as the eggs

hatch and grow into fearsome-looking nymphs. This year the nest boxes were still quiet in the second half of May and our *nest-box watch* did not reveal the usual mad frenzy of blue tit and great tit parents feeding vociferous young. As you may have heard on *Springwatch* the caterpillar supply in many areas arrived late this year, due to the cold and wet, which had a particular effect on blue tits.

Interestingly those nesting in my garden produced young fledgelings almost on time. Perhaps because we continue filling our bird feeders year-round?

This year we recorded a total of 35 bird species on our *Dawn Chorus* early (6am) morning walk at the beginning of June. We were serenaded by skylarks, chiffchaffs, bullfinches, whitethroats, yellowhammers and many more. With the nesting season now coming towards an end, the singing is less enthusiastic, but it's still well worth getting up early (or 5 minutes earlier if you already have an early work start) and just listening out for the fluid notes of a blackbird and the persistent monologues of wood pigeons and collared doves.

4th Wednesday of each month – (except August and December). Join our friendly work parties to help manage the reserve – coffee provided!

Saturday 28 August – Pond Dipping at 2pm, all ages are welcome. Meet by pond in main field. Parking available opposite, in Landbeach Village Hall car park.



Anna and Graeme ready for action, pond dipping 2019 at Worts Meadow

Date TBA Wildlife talk and wine and cheese evening in Landbeach Village Hall.

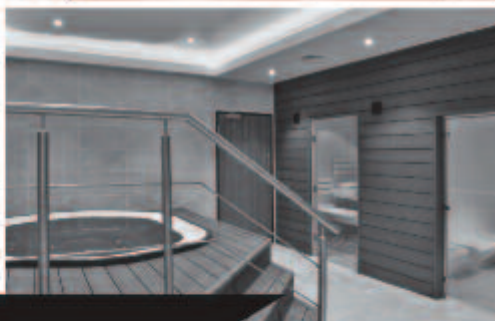
It is free to join the Friends of Worts Meadow. Our open events provide the chance to learn about and enjoy the wildlife of Worts Meadow Local Nature Reserve in Landbeach and help with recording. Volunteers can also help with the practical management of the site. For more information, to send in wildlife photographs and records, or to be added to our email list, contact Frances Dipper on 01223 861836, frances.dipper@sustenergy.co.uk

LANDBEACH SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Landbeach Society will be on **Wednesday 15 September** at 7.30pm in Landbeach Village Hall. This meeting will include a presentation by the Fen Edge Archaeology Group on its pilot project *Ponds and Greens of Landbeach*.

After refreshments there will be a short AGM, postponed from March 2020.

All welcome, admission free.



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FECA IN RAMPTON

RAMPTON SPINNERS

After more than a year where we have had our lives and interests curtailed it is so good to start thinking about opening-up once again to be able to pursue our interests or investigate new horizons.

Rampton Spinners are a group that meets bi-monthly in Rampton Village Hall. It is usually the first Saturday of the month from 10am–4pm.

We are a very social bunch who like to get together to spin and talk. Our members include experienced spinners who are a font of knowledge and who are always willing to share what they know with beginners and newcomers.

We run workshops on a variety of skills such as dyeing, felting, braid making and colour blending to name but a few.

We have some equipment to borrow, so please do not be put off just because you do not have a spinning wheel. If you would like to come along for a taster session you would be most welcome.

For more information:

Liz Milway 01954 250039

liz.milway@googlemail.com

Sue Rayner 01954 277266 sue@benrayner.co.uk

RAMPTON HORSE SHOW

Saturday 18 September, starting at 9.00am

After the disappointment of having to cancel last year's show due to the Covid Pandemic, the organising of this year's show (our 33rd show) has begun with our AGM and the first Committee meeting of this season having taken place back in February. As usual, our traditional, family horse show will feature showing (in-hand and ridden) classes, jumping classes, dressage, fun classes, gymkhana, fancy dress, clear round ring and our very popular fun dog show.

Once again Fen Edge Community Association has kindly sponsored the In-Hand Championship Class, the winner of which will be awarded the Fen Edge Community Association Cup.

Do please come along and support one of the friendliest village horse shows in the Eastern region. May we urgently request any local businesses to consider donating a prize to our show raffle which helps raise funds for our nominated charities, which this year are Centre 33 (a charity supporting young people up to the age of 25 with mental health, caring responsibilities, housing,

sexual health and more), East Anglian Air Ambulance and Swavesey and District Bridleways Association. We rely on local support to enable our show to continue. We are, after all, one of the very few village horse shows still in existence in this region. Please check out our Facebook page and visit our website (www.ramptonhorseshow.org) for updates.

RAMPARTS

We are having to postpone the exhibition, which was to be held at Rampton Village Hall on 17–18 July, as these dates are before the Covid regulations are relaxed. The new dates will be **20-21**

November. A good time to pick up original artwork for Christmas presents! Plenty of parking and homemade refreshments.

The Black Horse at Rampton continues to exhibit examples of local artists' work and the food is great!
Rosemary Millar

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM GARDENING CLUB

The club had hoped to resume its monthly meetings on Monday 5 July. But, at the end of June, the government decided to extend Covid restrictions into July, which meant that our July meeting had to be cancelled. As you can imagine this is a great disappointment to all our members. We hope to resume meetings in September. As with the vast majority of similar events up and down the country, it is with regret that this year's Willingham Horticultural and Craft Show has been cancelled as it proved impractical to make workable arrangements in the current climate.

Some jobs in the garden to think about over the coming weeks

Autumn Jobs to do right now: think of autumn less as the end of the gardening year and more as a start of the next one.

Dig over vegetable beds and flower borders.

If your lawn looks slightly the worse for wear, this is the perfect time to revitalise it. Whether it means repairing any worn out or dead areas or wear and tear.

Keep container plants in tip top condition by tidying up dead, damaged material. Mulching and feeding as necessary. Use pot feet to improve drainage so the pot does not become waterlogged over the winter with the possibility of freezing and killing off your plants.

Remove lower branches on trees that are causing obstruction. Avoid pruning ornamental cherries and plums, though, because the cuts will be open to disease. Prune these trees in summer instead.

Dig up and move poorly placed shrubs, and divide over crowded perennials while the soil is still warm.

Clean all the glass, frames and benches in the greenhouse to prevent pests and diseases from overwintering.

Clean pots and garden equipment, wipe metal surfaces with a little oil.

Buy and plant spring bulbs as soon as possible for spectacular borders.

If you have a pond spread a fine net and pin it down with bricks. This will catch falling leaves, which can clog pumps and turn the water foul. Take down bird boxes and empty them. Clear old nesting material and other debris that may carry diseases. Wash out the boxes with hot water and a

dash of biological cleaner. Clean out bird baths and feeders, and refill them regularly.

Protect the crown of frost-sensitive perennials.

Protect alpine plants against winter wet. Buy bare-root roses.

Autumn is an ideal time to clear out last year's compost bin.

Hedges are not only one of the cheapest ways to create a boundary, they're also wildlife friendly, and make a great backdrop for borders. Buy now as bare-root plants and set them in a staggered double row for a thick, bushy hedge.

A cunning plan for indoor colour at Christmas, plant up a few bulbs now and you won't have to wait until spring to enjoy them.

Some gardening safety tips: Reach for the right tools to take on tough autumn tasks safely. Invest in a few new and nifty gadgets to help you tackle those out of reach, awkward chores like harvesting and pruning.

Dizzy heights. It's essential to be safe and not overreach while working. So, if you have lots of hedging to sort out invest in a tripod ladder that's designed to be stable on uneven ground. Trying to trim a tree in sandals on a wobbly ladder using a lawn edger is simply asking for trouble.

WILLINGHAM BOWLS CLUB

We have not had a good start to the bowls season. After the floods the green has taken weeks to dry out enough for us to begin working on preparation for the season. We had to postpone our planned Willingham Bowls Club Community Scheme on advice from the Government guidelines but hopefully from 19 July we will be able to start the scheme. Our current biggest problem is to find enough members willing to play in our league teams. After a survey of our members, we had to pull out of two leagues, leaving us with one men's team in the *Business Houses League*. We are not the only club having these problems, two large clubs pulled out of all the leagues due to lack of members willing to play. This may be due to Covid-19, many saying they are not happy travelling to play away matches or just mixing with different communities.

We are conducting club roll-ups, **Sunday mornings**, at 11.00am and **Wednesday afternoons**, at 2.00pm.

continued on page 45



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

continued from page 43

We welcome new members and if you want to try bowls you are welcome to come along to either of those sessions. We have all the equipment; all you need is flat-soled shoes.

Membership is not expensive, if you want to be a member playing in our league teams or simply want open access to play at a time you wish, the membership is £15. NHS, Key Workers and those 17 years and younger get free membership. If you want to go to a roll-up there is no charge for the first four visits, then you can join if you want to continue.

Our indoor winter team is looking to be well supported, we play at Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club, the season runs from September to March. If you have any further enquiries, please contact us at willinghambowlsclubsec@gmail.com or Terry Buckley 07979 814969

WILLINGHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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We have continued to hold our monthly meetings virtually via Zoom and have enjoyed an assortment of interesting speakers. Despite not

being able to meet in person, meeting virtually is a good substitute and it has been really encouraging how many of our members have been logging on to take part.

We do have plans in place for our future meetings and 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. Our programme for Autumn includes a social evening on **Monday 13 September** with a photo quiz and jigsaw swap. It is hoped the jigsaw swap will be popular given how popular jigsaws have become during lockdown! We will have speakers at our **Monday 11 October** and **Monday 8 November**

meetings, and we plan to finish 2021 with a Christmas Party on **Monday 13 December**. (All being well).

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 7.30pm 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.

WILLINGHAM ACTION GROUP

Yet again we thank South Cambridgeshire District Council after our successful bid for funds from the Community Chest. With help and permission from our Parish Council we have been able to place six tubs (whisky half-barrels) of flowers in various places around the village. Our thanks also go to Hayden's nursery on Mill Road for supplying the plants and donating the flowers for one of the tubs. We also thank Willingham Gardening Club for advice, and the volunteers who form the watering teams from the scouts, library and parish office.



Flower Tubs on the green, by Mike Tidball

The flower tubs bring a wonderful touch of colour and are bee friendly. If you own a business in the village and have a place where you can put a tub then please contact us as we will supply a tub for you (we'll send a sample photo to you on request) with soil/compost and plants for £50 – all you have to do is water it occasionally!



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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM GUIDES AND RANGERS



Brownie unit opening in Willingham

We are looking forward to opening a new

Brownie unit in Willingham in September. We have two experienced Girlguiding adult leaders who are going to start the unit. We hope to meet on **Thursday evenings** from 5.30–6.30pm in Willingham Primary School.

Brownies is open to any girl aged 7–10 years. Brownies can open up a new world of activities and adventures in a safe girl only environment. During the weekly meetings they get together with their friends to learn new hobbies, get creative, develop

skills and have outdoor adventures. They can work towards and gain badges both in the Brownie unit and at home and there will be opportunities to try adventurous activities and going along to special events, day trips, sleepovers, camps and holidays.

The Brownie programme is based around six themes - *know myself, express myself, be well, have adventures, take action and skills for my future*. Girls in Brownies are part of a small group called a Six, led by a girl called a Sixer. They make their own decisions about what badges and activities to do next. They work together to explore the world around them and make a positive difference in their community.

If your daughter would like to become part of this new adventure, please contact Lynn on Istwillinghambrownies@gmail.com to find out more information. Or if you are over 18 and would like to help with the unit, drop us an email.

WILLINGHAM WHEELS

The *Over Day Centre Bike Rides* return on **Sunday 3 October 2021!**



We were hoping for more positive news in time to meet the copy date for this edition of Fen Edge News. We are still awaiting formal confirmation but are confident that we will be able to hold the Over Day Centre Bike Rides as planned, in a Covid-19-safe manner.

Over Day Centre has suffered greatly during the pandemic, being unable to open to provide professional care, friendship and recreation for older people in Over and the surrounding villages. They are also feeling the financial strain from being unable to fundraise to provide this service.

Willingham Wheels and Swavesey and Over Cycling Club have dusted off their bikes and invite you to do the same and join them for the 2021 Bike Rides on Sunday 3 October.

This year, the rides will start at Over Day Centre and finish, with post-ride activities, at Over Community Centre with an attractive bar (and cold beer!), separate café area, superb outdoor seating (weather permitting). There will also be live music courtesy of local duo *RPM*.

There will be three, fully marked routes from which to choose:

1. 50-mile *Challenge* route – £20 Minimum donation per rider (for route, please see <https://tinyurl.com/odc-challenge>)
2. 20-mile *Have-A-Go* route – £15 Minimum donation per rider (for route, please see <https://tinyurl.com/odc-intermediate>)
3. 8.5-mile *Family* route – Minimum donation £10 per family (any size); £5 adult individual; £2 under-18 including medals for all children completing the course.

For the latest news, please keep an eye out for details including start times and how to book your place on the Over Day Centre website www.overdaycentre.co.uk

If you are unable to take part but would like to support the Day Centre, you can make a donation to this fantastic local charity at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/odc-bike-rides



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PARISH COUNCILS

COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Cottenham Nursery – We're pleased to announce that the new day nursery at the Recreation Ground will be run by Chestnut Nursery Schools, a successful company who also run a nearby nursery in Chesterton. At the time of writing, we hope that the nursery will be ready to open in September. To find out more please contact them direct via their Managing Director Karen Broughton:

Karen@chestnut-nursery.co.uk

Highways – CPC learnt earlier this year that we were successful in our bid for LHI funding from the County Council towards speed reduction measures on Oakington Road. These will include a 40-mph buffer zone combined with a chicane feature, and additional road markings to emphasise vehicles are entering a 30mph zone. We don't yet know when this work will take place; likely to be in the autumn, or early 2022.

Village Hall hire – We have 3 rooms of varying sizes available for hire – be it parties, training courses, classes etc. If you'd like to hire our Hall facilities please contact bookings@cottenhampc.org.uk or see our website for full details.

Defibrillator – We are currently working with Cottenham Colts and Cottenham United FC to install an externally accessible defibrillator at the Recreation Ground. This equipment will be available 24/7 in an emergency and will be located outside the new Village Hall.

Goal – Our thanks to Cottenham Colts for supplying and installing a new permanent goal on the Recreation Ground. We have added some 'top bins' targets for an extra challenge!

Skateboard lessons – We are pleased to say that Shredder Skate School are now providing lessons at the Recreation Ground. Please contact shredderskateschool@gmail.com to book or see www.shredderskateschool.co.uk for more information.

What's on? – From September we have a number of classes running in the Village Hall from *Clubercise* and pregnancy fitness through to *baby ballet* and *sing and sign*. Please see www.facebook.com/CottenhamVH or our website for more details and how to book.

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PARISH COUNCILS

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Environment – At all levels of government including the Parish Council there is much discussion about climate change and in particular about reduction in the emissions of greenhouse gases, the main one being carbon dioxide, hence the use of the shorthand term ‘carbon’.

The first step in any reduction is measuring exactly which activities produce carbon and how much, known as a carbon footprint, and a tool has recently been produced by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, together with Exeter University, that shows the carbon footprint at parish level. It can be found at <https://impact-tool.org.uk>

The site consists of pie-charts showing two ways of measuring the footprint: (i) territorial – carbon that is produced directly from within our parish (e.g., industrial, commercial, domestic, agriculture, transport), or (ii) consumption – including all emissions from our consumption of manufactured goods, food, and transport activity, etc., regardless of where the emissions occur. In addition to the charts, the actual data can also be downloaded. There is also the option to compare our footprint with other parishes, or district or national averages. Much useful background information is provided regarding the data sources used, assumptions, and methodology for arriving at the numbers.

This tool is non-interactive and only covers main impact areas, but it is a useful starting point to look at ways of reducing the Willingham carbon footprint. While there are many measures being discussed at all levels of Government from International down to District, there is much that we as a parish and as individuals can do. According to the UK Committee on Climate Change 2019 report, 62% of carbon savings we need to make now will need behavioural change to drive them. Small changes in behaviour add up. As consumers we can create a demand for low or zero carbon alternatives that will send a signal to the market and companies will respond. And just reducing waste will have an effect.

The ‘Using the tool’ document on the website is particularly useful regarding next steps, and has a list of resources. We as a Parish Council are looking at ways of reducing our own footprint. We have already secured a £13,000 grant from the SCDC Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme for changing the heating in the Ploughman Hall to a low-energy system, installed LEDs and use a green energy provider for the streetlights we are responsible for. We would like to encourage individual residents and families to do the same, and will be looking at ways to help. There are many tools available to measure your footprint at household level such as <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org> www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx and one from the WWF. These are much more detailed than the parish level one mentioned above.

The Parish Council is also working closely with the Willingham Action Group Sustainability subgroup and a current project is looking at ways of improving the biodiversity in Willingham.

We very much hope that this will be a two-way process and would really like to hear residents’ thoughts on these issues and how we can work together to reduce the Willingham carbon footprint.

Parish Council Election – Parish Councillors are elected for a term of four years, but this time the election was called a year early because of the Northstowe Governance Review. This made Willingham slightly larger after the incorporation of what was part of Longstanton. To keep future elections in synchronisation, the next election will be in five years’ time in 2026.

There were only 11 nominations for the 15 seats on the Parish Council, so no vote was called and all nominees were elected. We welcomed back two former Councillors: Jamie Smith and Jo Pilsworth. Following the election two of the vacancies were filled by co-option and the Council was joined by Andrew Cook and Simon Clark.



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FEN EDGE GROUPS

ROTARY CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE SOUTH

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We continue to meet weekly on Mondays using Zoom with fascinating speakers, often from overseas and sometimes from former international students that we have hosted, e.g., a recent and fascinating talk from Liberia in West Africa about Covid-19 there and another from UN Human Rights.

Hopefully, we will also be able to restart our direct activities (like Memory café at Girton) by this Autumn and the annual Christmas charity car parking in late November. We keep in touch with Rotary in Tanzania and the school for Masai that we have been supporting.

One thing we have recently got involved with is *Tools with a Mission* to send unwanted tools to Africa. Visit www.twam.uk/findcollector to see the list of the tools wanted (and those not wanted). If you have some, please contact me as I am happy to collect them.

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 WHO and thousands of volunteers, Rotary are getting ever nearer worldwide eradication, with the whole of Africa being declared Polio (wild virus) free last August.

This just leaves Pakistan and Afghanistan where there have been fewer cases this year so far.

Immunisation must continue around the world until it is eradicated (like Smallpox which is the only one eradicated to date). Rotary describes the activities as *polio plus* and it is giving the infrastructure for many medical benefits including an infrastructure for Covid-19 immunisation in many countries.

Our club includes members from Waterbeach, Cottenham and Cambridge. If you just want to know more about Rotary or our club and its activities or to consider joining or volunteering to help with the car parking, do get in touch. We are a welcoming club that has fun putting "service above self".

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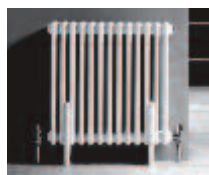
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FEN EDGE GROUPS

FEN EDGE ORCHESTRA

Players wanted! – Flute; 1st Violin (confident grade 7+ standard); 2nd Violin; Double Bass; 2nd French Horn.

The Fen Edge Orchestra is alive and well, and is looking for players of these instruments. If you play any of them and want to take part, please fill in the contact box on the orchestra's website – you'll be invited to come along to see if you enjoy it. There are no auditions. Although we work hard, there is always time for some fun.

The orchestra was not able to rehearse during the various lockdowns, but managed to keep going during the summer term. Thanks are extended to Histon Baptist Church for being our temporary home.

By the time you read this, the orchestra should be nicely established in its new home – the new Cottenham Village Hall on Lamb's Lane. Rehearsals take place on Wednesdays during term time at 7.30pm. We prepare for a couple of concerts a year – this focuses the minds of the conductor, Evan Turner, and the players!

If you have an interest in joining the orchestra as a player or supporting by attending a concert, have a look at the website below for up-to-date information: <http://fenedgeorchestra.wordpress.com>

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FEN EDGE GROUPS

FEN EDGE FOOTPATH GROUP

Since Covid restrictions have started to ease the Footpath Group have managed three very enjoyable walks which have been well attended.

Our first started in Histon and took in the villages of Girton and Westwick. Our second was a little further afield starting in the picturesque village of Grantchester.

On Saturday 19 June we set off from Landbeach Village Hall and walked around Landbeach Nature reserve, which was lovely with a variety of woods and open fields complete with a small water jump at the end.

As you might imagine there was plenty of chatter because half the fun of walking with a group is meeting other people and getting out in the fresh air, especially this year.

Newcomers will be made very welcome. See sites.google.com/site/fenedgefg/home for upcoming walks.

The email address for non-member enquiries fenedge.footpathgroup@gmail.com

We do not make a charge for yearly membership.

FARMLAND MUSEUM AND DENNY ABBEY

History, Events and Nature on your Doorstep

Question: where can you explore the history of Fenland farming, rural life, crafts, a beautiful abbey, browse a second-hand bookstore and gift shop whilst enjoying a lunch or a cream tea and children's play area? Answer: your local museum, The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey. This independent museum offers all of the above plus special events throughout the year. It is now fully open. There's so much to see and do here that the cost of admission also allows you free entry for the next twelve months.

New for 2021 is the Museum's *Fenland Display*. Here you can see how people in the Fens made a living prior to the drainage schemes which enabled the land to be farmed. At the heart of the display is a punt and punt gun, used by well-known Fenman and wildfowler Josh Scott to hunt ducks for market. Josh Scott's family has loaned the punt and gun to the

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FEN EDGE GROUPS

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museum and we're delighted to be able to play a part in keeping this Fenland story alive. Throughout the summer holidays there are special events and children's activities planned with a different theme each week ranging from local archaeology, to modern farming, a teddy bears' picnic, and a traditional fête. The ever-popular medieval days and WWII re-enactments will also be running this summer. You see now why you'll want that ticket that allows you to visit more than once! Events are shown on p5 and are, of course, subject to the Covid restrictions in place on the day. In September, Heritage Open Day is running as part of the national festival with a theme this year of Edible England. And we will finish the season, as always, with a Halloween extravaganza! Hopefully pumpkin carving will return this year. The much-loved café, known as 'The Docky Box' has recently been revamped and now offers speciality coffees, teas, lunches and cakes made in-house, often

from fruit grown on our allotment! You don't get much more local than that.

If you haven't been before, make 2021 the year you visit! And if you have, then come back and see what's new.

The museum is run by a small team of staff and some incredible volunteers. If you are thinking about volunteering this summer, please do get in touch. Current volunteering opportunities include gardening, welcoming visitors, fundraising, assisting with events, and working with the collections. If you have a skill, passion, or interest the museum can probably put it to good use.

Please visit the museum website for the latest information on opening times, admission prices, booking your visit, what's on, and sign up to receive the monthly newsletter at www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk

You can find us just off the A10 between Cambridge and Ely.

For all enquiries including more information on volunteering please phone the museum on 01223 860988 or email info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk

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FEN EDGE GROUPS

STITCHWILD

We haven't resumed face to face StitchWild meetings yet, so instead I thought I'd tell you about a recent visit I made to London to visit the Foundling Museum, based on the site of the old Foundling Hospital, which opened in 1745, 'for the maintenance and education of exposed and deserted young children.'

I found the Museum to be quite interestingly poignant; but was also intrigued to find a link to our members' interest in textiles! Let me take you along – many of the children who came to live at the Hospital had at least one parent living, who was unable to provide for the child. When the child was taken in, the parent was not named (to avoid shame) but a confidential note on a 'billet' registration form was made of any token that might have been left by the parent; so that if the parent's circumstances changed, the child could be identified and reclaimed.

Coins and medals were sometimes used, but more commonly, textile tokens were left – a ribbon, a strip of cloth from the mother's clothing, an embroidered item or even a fragment of the child's clothing. These items were pinned to the billet along with a serial number, date of admission and other details, then folded into a packet and sealed with a wax seal, and stored away; only to be opened if a child was claimed back.

The child's name was not recorded and the child was given a new name. This system continued until 1858, when John Brownlow, himself a foundling, decided to remove some of the tokens from the packets, since the system had changed and tokens were no longer used for making claims.

The tokens were then put on display shortly after the opening of the Victoria and Albert Museum, in the hope that the public might see them and donate to the Hospital charity. The Hospital Museum exhibits a small collection of these tokens along with other non-textile tokens, all heartbreakingly touching.

So, over the years, the Museum collected more than 5,000 of these small textile items,

encompassing a wide range of fabrics worn by ordinary women in the mid-18th century and indeed one of the largest catalogues in the country of textiles from this era; interesting as social history totally separate from the Foundling Hospital, which is of great interest and use to textile historians.

The Foundling Hospital also became the first exhibiting art gallery in the country, due to the founder's interest in helping young artists, but that's a whole other story to tell! If interested in the work of the Foundling Hospital, which now continues as the CORAM charity, I would highly recommend a visit to the Foundling Museum, located on Brunswick Square, which is a 10-minute walk from St Pancras/Kings Cross Rail Station!

Diane Cowell

ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE CHARITY

National Three Peaks Virtual Challenge – Take on the challenge of walking the National Three Peaks... virtually, with Arthur Rank Hospice Charity!

Wherever you live, between 1 August and 31 October, you can start 'virtually' at Ben Nevis and walk, jog, run, cycle, swim, row or even scoot the 647.34km route, which also includes Snowdon and Scafell Pike. Any steps you would take as part of your normal day can be included (1km is usually around 1312 steps).

By taking part you will be raising essential funds for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's frontline care which is provided free of charge to people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition.

Registration is £15 and Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is asking you to fundraise £209, which is the average cost of a nurse's shift. Anyone raising £50 or above receives a free branded neck buff! During the challenge itself you will be able to see where you are on an interactive map and race others on the leader-board to be first to the summit! Sign up before 1 September to take part at arhc.org.uk/virtualthreepeaks



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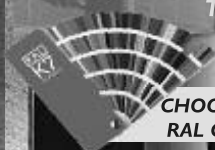


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