Fen Edge news

community association

AUTUMN 2026



News from your Local Clubs, Groups and Councils

PRODUCED BY THE FEN EDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FOR THE VILLAGES OF

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Fen Edge community association

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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fenedgenews

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Fen Edge Festival 2026 – where did it all go right?

Welcome to the latest edition of *Fen Edge News*, Autumn 2026.

In the aftermath of the previous *Fen Edge Festival* in 2024, there was much discussion among FECA and festival committees about whether the festival could continue. While it was undoubtedly successful and popular with much of the community, there were reported issues around noise, litter and anti-social behaviour during the weekend. Questions were raised about whether it had grown to the point where the planning, logistics and management were too much for amateur volunteers to manage. A number of the core committee had also decided that 2024 was their last festival and had stepped down.

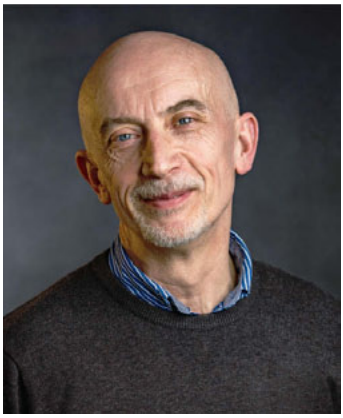
But the committee, buoyed by new members and led by the previous joint chair, Rebecca, was determined to keep the festival alive and took up the challenge again for summer 2026. As I write this, drained by record high temperatures and still recovering from the festival weekend, I am left with the overriding feeling that the decision to continue was correct. It also prompted me to think about what makes the *Fen Edge Festival* so special, and why this one was so successful.

In a nutshell, where did it all go right?

Committee – Work on the festival generally starts the summer before. Each member has a specific role and brings their own skills and attributes, meeting regularly and working seamlessly as a team. The committee is drawn from the local community; most are still working, with busy lives and families, but all are committed to providing the best family-friendly, free-to-attend festival possible.

The highest testament I can give to this team is the number of positive comments from traders and attendees, many of whom believed the festival was hosted by a professional events team.

Over the festival weekend, including set-up and clear-up days, the 20 or so committee members gave a combined 842 hours, the equivalent of 35 days, and took 1,232,301 steps, approximately 600 miles, or *Land's End* to *John o' Groats* as the crow flies.



Event staff – As in previous years, we are indebted to the brilliant event staff who make the festival possible. From security and first aid provision to sound engineers and facilities management, all played their part with professionalism, humour and enthusiasm. Without them, none of it would be possible.

Volunteers – Volunteers are the lifeblood of the festival, managing litter, set-up, traffic and stewarding. Many traders commented that this was the best-marshalled and most litter-free event they had ever been involved with. Each time a plea was made for additional volunteers, people came forward in numbers.

Entertainment and variety – From axe throwing to curling, and heavy horses to ferrets, there was something for everyone this year. The entertainment was varied and free to attend. Where else could you see *Singing for Fun* showcasing their blend of traditional and original songs, followed by the inimitable *Big 10* playing ska classics, in the same marquee on the same day?

Sponsorship – The underlying principle of the *Fen Edge Festival* has always been to provide good family entertainment at low cost, while giving FECA member groups an opportunity to raise much-needed funds. Without our loyal sponsors, many of whom have supported us over numerous festivals, this would not be achievable. We thank each and every one.

The people – Most importantly, it is surely the community of the *Fen Edge Patch*, attending each day in numbers, that makes our festival so unique. I am proud of the community we live in, and weekends like the one just gone highlight how lucky we are to consider the *Fen Edge Patch* our own.

Planning for the return of the festival in 2028 will begin soon. If you are interested in finding out more and getting involved, please email Rebecca at chair@fenedgefestival.co.uk

Until next time, take care and have a great autumn.

Mark Hurworth

FEN EDGE EVENTS DIARY

What's on and when in the villages

August

Sat 1 Rotary Club Cambridge South – Cars and Coffee at Grange Farm, Horningsea p17

Mon 3 – **Thu 6: 9am–12pm** (for ages 6–9), **1–4pm** (for ages 10–16) Cottenham Tennis Club – Summer Holiday Camps at Cottenham Tennis Club, Cottenham Village College p61

Tue 4 2.30–4.30pm Rampton Tea Club Tea and Chat at Rampton Village Hall p35

Tue 4 Willingham Women's Institute Guided Tour: *Guided Tour of Ely.* p27

Wed 5 Waterbeach Cricket Club League Game: *Against Cambourne (home).* p31

Fri 7 10am Rotary Club Cambridge South Monthly Themed Memory Cafe for People with Memory Loss and Carers at Girton Community Building in St Vincents Close p17

Fri 7 Cottenham and Rampton Lunch & Social Club Trip: *River Ouse* with the Ladybird Boat Trust p65

Fri 7 Fen Edge Walkers *Cambridge by the River Cam, 4-5 Miles* p15

Sat 8 10am–12pm Willingham Memory Box Cafe at The Octagon, Willingham p25

Thu 13 10.30am–12pm Cottenham Baptist Church Thursday Hub p57

Tue 18 2.30–4.30pm Rampton Tea Club Tea and Chat at Rampton Village Hall p35

Sun 23 1–3pm Tithe Barn Trust Live Music at Landbeach Tithe Barn p41

Mon 24 6pm Rotary Club Cambridge South Club Meeting at Madingley Hall, Cambridge p17

Mon 31 Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum Maker's Market p15

September

Tue 1 2.30–4.30pm Rampton Tea Club Tea and Chat at Rampton Village Hall p35

Fri 4 10am Rotary Club Cambridge South Monthly Themed Memory Cafe for People with Memory Loss and Carers at Girton Community Building in St Vincents Close p17

Fri 4 Fen Edge Walkers *Hardwick to Toft, 4.5 Miles.* p15

Sat 5 10am–4pm Rampton Spinners at Rampton Village Hall p35

Sat 5 4.30pm Fen Edge Twinning Association Boules / Social Event and AGM at Black Horse Inn, Rampton p11

Sat 5 Rotary Club Cambridge South Cars and Coffee at Grange Farm, Horningsea p17

Sun 6 1–5pm Rotary Club Cambridge South – Football Tournament For Homeless Players at Abbey Leisure Centre Cambridge p17

Sun 6 2pm Rampton '77 Committee Rampton Relay at The Parkland, Rampton p35

Sun 6 7.30pm Cottenham Community Centre Community Cinema p45

Mon 7 7.30–9.15pm Cambridgeshire Geological Society – Talk: *The History of Edward Charlesworth* by Dominic Davey at St Andrew's Centre, Histon p19

Mon 7 Fen Edge Walkers *Everton and Gamlingay, 8 Miles* p15

Tue 8 Fen Edge Walkers – Walk: *Upper Dean, 8 Miles.* p15

Wed 9 7.30pm Cottenham Women's Institute *My Lourdes Experience as a Nurse* by Diane Manion at Cottenham Village Hall p57

Wed 9 Fen Edge Walkers – *Hertfordshire Chain Walk No. 13 (extended), 6.5 Miles* p15

Thu 10 10.30am–12pm Cottenham Baptist Church Thursday Hub p57

Fri 11 7.30pm Cottenham Village Society Talk: *How to Look for One and Occasionally Spot One* by Peter Pilbeam, followed by the AGM, at Cottenham Village Hall p57

Sat 12 – **Sun 13 10am–4pm** Tithe Barn Trust Art Exhibition: *Explore Works by Local Artists Set Against the Backdrop of the Medieval Tithe Barn* at Landbeach Tithe Barn p41

Sat 12 10am–12pm Willingham Memory Box Cafe at The Octagon, Willingham p25

Sun 13 11.30am–4pm Sustainable Cottenham FruitFest: *Making the Most of Seasonal Abundance* at Cottenham Village Hall p59

Mon 14 6pm Rotary Club Cambridge South Club Meeting at Madingley Hall, Cambridge p17

Mon 14 7–9pm Willingham Women's Institute *The History of Bingo and Lingo* by Sara Phipps at Willingham Social Club p27

Tue 15 2.30–4.30pm Rampton Tea Club Tea and Chat at Rampton Village Hall p35

FEN EDGE EVENTS DIARY

Sat 19 9am Rampton Horse Show at The Parkland, Rampton p35

Sat 19 10am–4pm Friends of All Saints' Cottenham Open Day at All Saints' Church, Cottenham p51

Sat 19 10am–4pm Tithe Barn Trust Family History Day at Landbeach Tithe Barn p41

Sat 19 Cottenham Dissenters' Cemetery Heritage Open Day p63

Sat 19 Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum Heritage Open Day p15

Fri 25 7.30pm Cottenham Gardeners Club *Fruit Growing in Cottenham* by Ralph Carpenter at Franklin Gardens Community Room p53

Fri 25 Willingham Women's Institute Guided Tour of Cambridge p27

Sat 26 11am–12.30pm Sustainable Rampton Community Clothes Swap at Rampton Village Hall p37

Sat 26 2pm Friends of Willingham Church Afternoon of Music and A Short Talk About the History of the Church Building p23

Mon 28 6pm Rotary Club Cambridge South Club Meeting at Madingley Hall, Cambridge p17

Tue 29 2.30–4.30pm Rampton Tea Club Talk: *The Story of Cambridge in One Hole* by Alison Dickens at Rampton Village Hall p35

October

Fri 2 10am Rotary Club Cambridge South – Monthly Themed Memory Cafe for People with Memory Loss and Carers at Girton Community Building in St Vincents Close p17

Sat 3 Rotary Club Cambridge South Cars and Coffee at Grange Farm, Horningsea p17

Sun 4 7pm Cottenham Community Centre Folk Evening with Irish Singer Richie Ros p45

Tue 6 3.45–7.45pm Rotary Club Cambridge South Peace Debate at Leys School Great Hall p17

Thu 8 10.30am–12pm Cottenham Baptist Church Thursday Hub p57

Fri 9 7.30pm Cottenham Village Society – Introducing Our MP, Charlotte Cane at Cottenham Village Hall p57

Fri 9 Fen Edge Walkers *Burrough Green, 4.5 Miles.* p15

Sat 10 10am–12pm Willingham Memory Box Cafe at The Octagon, Willingham p25

Sat 10 11am–12pm Cottenham Community Centre – Meeting of the Swift Group p45

Sun 11 7.30pm Cottenham Community Centre Community Cinema p45

Sun 11 Cottenham and Rampton Lunch & Social Club – Celebration of the Club Operating Since 1986 at Cottenham Village Hall p65

Mon 12 7–9pm Willingham Women's Institute *Paranormal in Cambridge: History Brought to Life* by Mike Wabe at Willingham Social Club p27

Mon 12 7.30–9.15pm Cambridgeshire Geological Society – *Exceptional Fossils: the Surprising, the Significant and the Strange* by Dr Peter Sheldon at St Andrew's Centre, Histon p19

Mon 12 Cottenham Theatre Workshop – Tickets Available for *Charlotte and the Cottenham Factory.* p47

Tue 13 2.30–4.30pm Rampton Tea Club Tea and Chat at Rampton Village Hall p35

Wed 14 7.30pm Cottenham Women's Institute – *Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers* by St John Ambulance at Cottenham Village Hall p57

Sat 17 2pm Sustainable Rampton Litter Pick at Rampton Village Green p37

Sat 24 7.30–10pm Friends of All Saints' Cottenham Concert by Prime Brass and Cottenham Brass at All Saints' Church, Cottenham p51

Mon 26 6pm Rotary Club Cambridge South Club Meeting at Madingley Hall, Cambridge p17

Tue 27 2.30–4.30pm Rampton Tea Club Talk: *Climate and Energy* by Dr Daniel Cole from Oxford University at Rampton Village Hall p35

Thu 29 – Fri 30 Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum – Half Term Fun, with Free Themed Children's Activities p15

Fri 30 7.30pm Cottenham Gardeners Club *All About Herbs* by David Hinckley at Franklin Gardens Community Room p53

November

Sun 1 7.30pm Cottenham Community Centre Community Cinema p45

Tue 3 Cottenham and Rampton Lunch & Social Club AGM at Coolidge Gardens Community Room p65

Fri 6 10am Rotary Club Cambridge South Monthly Themed Memory Cafe for People with Memory Loss and Carers at Girton Community Building in St Vincents Close p17

Sat 7 10am–4pm Rampton Spinners at Rampton Village Hall p35

Sat 7 2pm Sustainable Cottenham Litter Pick at Cottenham Village Hall p59

Sat 7 Rotary Club Cambridge South Cars and Coffee at Grange Farm, Horningsea p17

Mon 9 7–9pm Willingham Women's Institute Workshop: *Christmas Origami Making* by Mel from Creative Grounds at Willingham Social Club p27

Mon 9 7.30–9.15pm Cambridgeshire Geological Society – *The Trinity Cobbles: a Story of Plate Tectonics in Miniature* by Professor Marian Holness at St Andrew's Centre, Histon p19

Tue 10 2.30–4.30pm Rampton Tea Club Tea and Chat at Rampton Village Hall p35

Thu 12 10.30am–12pm Cottenham Baptist Church Thursday Hub p57

Fri 13 7.30pm Cottenham Village Society Talk: *Never Give Up: a WWII RAF Diary* by Susan Rowe at Cottenham Village Hall p57

Sat 14 10am–2pm Sustainable Cottenham – Repair Café at Cottenham Community Centre p59

Sat 14 10am–12pm Willingham Memory Box Cafe at The Octagon, Willingham p25

Sat 14 7–10pm Friends of All Saints' Cottenham Family Quiz at All Saints' Church Hall p51

Sat 21 9.30am Cottenham Branch Operation Christmas Child – Packing Day at Cottenham Village Hall p59

Mon 23 6pm Rotary Club Cambridge South Club Meeting at Madingley Hall, Cambridge p17

Tue 24 2.30–4.30pm Rampton Tea Club Musical Meeting at Rampton Village Hall p35

Wed 25 6.30pm Cottenham Community Centre Workshop: *Christmas Wreath Making* p45

Thu 26 – **Sun 29** Friends of All Saints' Church Landbeach – Christmas Tree Festival p41

Fri 27 7.30pm Cottenham Gardeners Club Question Time/Quiz at Franklin Gardens Community Room p53

Sat 28 10am–2pm Cottenham Community Centre Christmas Market p45

Sat 28 – **Sun 29** Rotary Club Cambridge South Charity Car Parking p17









FEN EDGE FESTIVAL 2026



A Weekend to Remember!

When the festival opened on **Friday 19 June**, Cottenham did what it does best. The village green filled with people, the music started and, for three days, the *Fen Edge Festival* reminded everyone why it is one of the most cherished community events in *South Cambridgeshire*.

Around 5,000 people visited Cottenham over the weekend. Spread across *Cottenham Village Green*, *Cottenham Village College* and *Cottenham Community Centre*, the festival offered something for everyone, from toddlers to music lovers and dog enthusiasts.

Friday evening got things off to a lively start with the sell-out primary school *PTCA Summer Dance*, featuring live music from *The Jjarrs* alongside real ales from *The Chequers*.

Bands including *Big 10* and *C5* entertained evening crowds, while *The Venue* music tent became the festival's own mini *Glastonbury Pyramid Stage*, showcasing some of the best local musical talent each day.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a *Spitfire* flypast. Eyes turned skyward and the crowds stood still – one of those moments that stops people mid-conversation and reminds them they are part of something special.

History was represented through a medieval encampment, the *Cottenham Village Society* and local archaeology displays, while the ferret show, dog show and heavy horses delighted animal lovers.



As always, the festival was free to attend. At a time when many community events are becoming increasingly expensive, the *Fen Edge Festival* remains genuinely open to everyone.

All profits generated are returned to community organisations and groups belonging to the *Fen Edge Community Association (FECA)*. Every ice cream bought, every pint poured and every raffle ticket sold benefits the villages FECA serves.

Throughout the weekend, FECA groups and local organisations showcased their activities, celebrating the creativity and community spirit of the *Fen Edge Patch* villages.

The festival has always been about more than entertainment; it is a reminder that Cottenham, Landbeach, Rampton, Waterbeach and Willingham are communities with a shared identity, shared pride and a determination to look after one another.

The organising committee deserves enormous credit. Months of planning, countless volunteer hours and considerable logistical effort sit behind what appeared to be an effortlessly enjoyable weekend. It was the result of dedication, care and a genuine belief that events like this matter.

But we couldn't do it without the many local residents who signed up for one or multiple volunteer shifts and everyone who attended over the weekend to join in the fun. Thank you all!

Save the date – the festival returns on **Friday 23–Sunday 25 June 2028**.

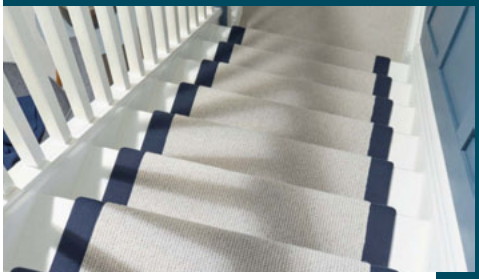
(Photos on page 8 by Harry Pledger.)



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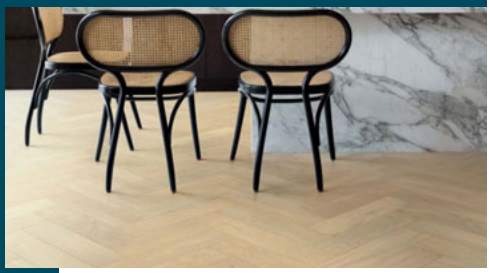
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FEN EDGE GROUPS

FEN EDGE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

A party of 34 French "twinners" arrived from Avrillé on the evening of **Friday 1 May** for a weekend of fun and friendship with hosts from around the *Fen Edge Patch* villages. There would have been many more if we had been able to find more hosts. It had been agreed that this year we would focus our entertainment agenda on showing off the highlights of just one of our villages. Rampton was chosen for 2026. Which village will be next?

The reception at *Rampton Village Hall* was attended by our MP, Charlotte Cane, and by representatives from our parish councils and local schools. The highlight of the reception buffet was *Foxhay English Cider*, made in Rampton and served by the maker, Gavin Cameron, and his wife. It was a great hit with everyone, especially our French visitors, who love to try truly local produce wherever they go.

The highlight of the speeches was the presentation by the French visitors of a cheque for €250 to the *Fen Edge Community Association*, in recognition of its support for community projects of all kinds.

Free time after the reception was largely taken up with dinner, bed and breakfast before our out-of-village activities on Saturday. These were a day trip to Ickworth and a communal dinner at *Ely Golf Club*. Both organisations went out of their way to make us and our French guests feel welcome. Ickworth waived its normal policy of not accepting coach parties on bank holiday weekends and made sure its guides were up to speed with the house's historic French connection. The golf club took great care to ensure that its menu and table layout were to our liking.

Sunday was officially a free day for hosts to entertain their guests as they saw fit, but optional events were arranged in Rampton for those who wished to participate, which most did.

The events began with a picnic on the green, which quickly relocated to *Rampton Village Hall* due to overnight rain, followed by a visit to Rampton's historic thatched church.

Alison Wedgebury gave an excellent talk on the history of the church, and Kit Kilgour talked about the church bells and arranged an excellent hands-on demonstration.

After the church visit, we walked across the meadow to *Giant's Hill*. This rather unimposing monument has great historic and archaeological significance, and John Stanford was on hand to explain this and point out the significant features that can still be seen.

In the evening, groups of "twinners" and their guests got together for small dinner parties. The French visitors left early on Monday morning, taking with them, and leaving behind, many happy memories.

For more information, please see our Facebook page or come along to our Boules / Social event at the *Black Horse Inn*, Rampton on **Saturday 5 September**, 4.30pm till late. There is no charge, but please let us know you are coming (email fenedgetwinning@gmail.com). Our AGM will be held during the evening, all are welcome to attend.



Charlotte Cane, MP, and twinning speakers



A French guest giving bell-ringing a go

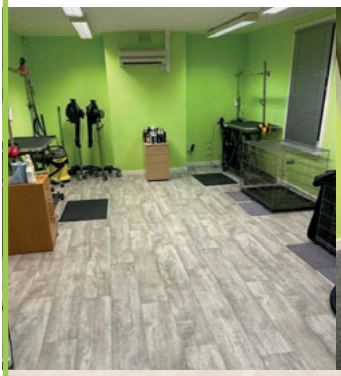


Group Dinner at Ely Golf Club

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STITCHWILD



One of our members, Mark Briggs, had the opportunity to travel to India to explore fabric printing techniques. Rather than joining one of the many companies that now offer these experiences, Mark arranged his own flights and booked his classes directly with the *WabiSabi Project* in Bagru, Rajasthan.

WabiSabi specialises in small group classes, under the direction of master artisans, using traditional hand block printing techniques and plant-based and other natural dyes. Classes are deliberately kept to three or four participants, allowing as much direction as possible so that everyone can immerse themselves fully in their projects. Participants can carve their own print block from teak if they wish. The desired pattern is first outlined by tapping it out with a small chisel, before different sized chisels are used to carve the detail of the design. Carving a 2-inch block can take a whole day. *WabiSabi* also has blocks available for participants to use, and bespoke print blocks can be ordered in advance.

Only plant-based and natural dyes are used in the classes, and they are applied in a specific order to achieve the desired patterns and designs. Black dye is applied first; it is made from iron filings and molasses, mixed together and fermented in giant barrels for several months. Madder root is an ancient plant dye prized for yielding rich reds, corals, pinks and orange hues. The depth of colour depends on temperature control, local water acidity and the mordant, a binding agent that helps the dye penetrate the fibres. One batch of chopped madder can be used several times, producing progressively lighter pinks and peach tones. The dye is boiled to a specific temperature in large copper pots; the copper interacts with the black and red dyes to set them.

Marigold and turmeric are used to obtain yellow. Marigolds are one of the most vibrant and accessible natural dyes, producing warm shades from buttery yellows to golds and rich oranges. The flowers are simmered in water for 30 to 60 minutes, then strained to separate the plant matter, leaving the coloured dye water.

Turmeric dye makes a bright tangerine-yellow, although it is not light-fast, so the vibrant colours gradually fade if left in direct sunlight.

Natural indigo dye is an ancient pigment derived from plant leaves, producing iconic blue shades. Indigo is insoluble in water and needs a special oxygen-free vat process to bond with natural fibres. Fabrics are submerged in 6 foot-deep vats buried in the ground. The liquid is a pale yellowish green, but once the fabric is exposed to air, it oxidises, turning into the familiar indigo blue.

Mud-resist dyeing techniques are used to make patterns. A thick, clay-based paste is applied to fabric as a physical barrier. When the fabric is submerged in dye, the covered areas resist the colour, leaving intricate, undyed patterns. This process can be repeated several times to create complex, multicoloured designs.

Mark arrived at *WabiSabi* with many ideas about what he wanted to accomplish and spent eight days meticulously printing his fabrics. Frida Kahlo is a favourite design used in his work. The accompanying photo shows part of a jacket in progress.
The rest of *StitchWild* cannot wait to see what he does with what he has made.



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FEN EDGE GROUPS

DENNY ABBEY AND THE FARMLAND MUSEUM

We are halfway through our open season, and our calendar is still packed with things to do.

Events coming up for the rest of this season:

Summer holiday – fun with children's activities and crafts Thursdays and Fridays. Each week has a different time period so you can come back for something new every week!

Maker's market – on August bank holiday (**Monday 31 August**). Discover unique handcrafted items from local artisans at our summer market.

Heritage open day
Saturday 19 September
with free entry for all visitors

October half term fun
Thursday 29 and **Friday 30 October**, with free themed children's activities

In addition to these special events, we will host regular craft workshops and have two temporary exhibits this year covering *Chivers Jam Company* and attitudes towards the drainage of the Fens.

We welcome enquiries from groups and schools interested in visiting the museum. Our educational programmes provide engaging and interactive experiences designed to complement school lessons. Get in touch to arrange a visit!

We close for the season on Sunday 1 November, we would love to see you before then.

Volunteers are at the heart of our museum and this year we are looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our team in the following roles:

Tour Guides – to lead visitors through *Denny Abbey*, sharing insights and stories.

Visitor Services – to welcome guests and assist with ticket sales.

If you love history, storytelling, or working with people, we'd love to hear from you!

For more information on events, group visits, or volunteering, please contact us at info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk or visit our website www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk



A child dusting off their archaeological find during archaeology week. Come and see what you can find in our mock dig site during archaeology week! Photo: The Farmland Museum.

FEN EDGE WALKERS

September Walks – This is our annual walking week and everyone is welcome. Please wear sturdy boots and dress for the weather. Bring a drink, snacks and a packed lunch. All walks are free. Walks start at 10am unless otherwise stated. For full details and to join a walk, email fenedge.footpathgroup@gmail.com
Information is also available at sites.google.com/site/fenedgefg/2026-main-walks

Monday 7 September – Everton and Gamlingay, 8 miles. A leisurely route linking the two villages through historic and ancient woodland.

Tuesday 8 September – Upper Dean, 8 miles. Starting in Upper Dean and passing through Yelden, including the remains of a motte-and-bailey castle.

Wednesday 9 September – Hertfordshire Chain Walk No. 13 (extended), 6.5 miles. An extended version of the next link in the chain, taking in more of the rolling countryside enjoyed on previous walks.

Friday Walks – Full details are available at sites.google.com/site/fenedgefg/2026-friday-walks
To join a walk, email fenedge.footpathgroup@gmail.com

Friday 7 August – Cambridge by the River Cam, 4–5 miles. A leisurely, linear and largely level walk beside the River Cam, stopping for a riverside picnic lunch. Please bring food and drinks. Start time will be confirmed nearer the date, based on bus times. Pubs and facilities are available at both ends of the route.

Friday 4 September – Hardwick to Toft, 4.5 miles. A challenging circular route with slopes and uneven ground for much of the walk, offering fine views across the surrounding countryside.

Friday 9 October – Burrough Green, 4.5 miles. A circular walk with gentle hills, crossing fields, woodland and stud farms, providing a varied mix of habitats and scenery.

We look forward to seeing you on a walk soon.

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ROTARY CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE SOUTH

You may have heard the name *Rotary* – could now be the time for you to find out more about Rotary?

Rotary's motto is "Service above Self".

Events

Sunday 6 September – A football tournament for homeless players at the *Abbey Leisure Centre* Cambridge from 1–5pm. Let me know if you are a referee and could help on the day or just come as a spectator/helper.

Tuesday 6th October – A Peace debate for 6th formers from six Cambridgeshire schools held at the *Leys School Great Hall* 3.45–7.45pm. Peace is a key theme for *Rotary*, and the future will be in the hands of young people.

Let me know if you would like to come and be inspired by the knowledge and skills of young people.

Fridays **7 August**, **4 September**, **2 October** and **6 November** – A monthly themed memory café, for people with memory loss and their carers, at Girton (Community building in St Vincents close CB3 0PD) on the first Friday of each month at 10am. New people from Cottenham and elsewhere are warmly welcome.

Saturdays **1 August**, **5 September**, **3 October** and **7 November** – A monthly "cars and coffee" event at *Grange Farm*, Horningsea (CB25 9JD) on the first Saturday of each month. Bring your classic car and enjoy seeing many others.

Mondays **24 August**, **14 September**, **28 September**, **26 October**, **23 November** – Our club (Cambridge South) usually meets on 2nd and 4th Mondays (not public holidays) 6 for 6.30pm at *Madingley Hall,* Cambridge, with excellent speakers and meal.

New guests, volunteer speakers and potential members are very welcome. If you would like to enjoy a lovely 2 course meal and coffee (current cost £28) at Madingley Hall and hear from an amazing speaker, do get in touch.

Saturday 28 and **Sunday 29 November** and each weekend to Christmas plus **Sunday 27** to **Thursday 31 December** – Charity car parking at two central Cambridge sites, (which the University kindly allows us to use).

We need lots of volunteers to help with this for 2.5-hour slots. If you can help us raise money for mainly local charities (last year over £40,000), please do get in touch. Many *Fen Edge Patch* residents volunteer each year – you could be one of them!

Children's books – We collect good quality children's books, for *North Cambridge Community Centre* (Arbury/Kings Hedges) where some children have no books in their homes. We would be very happy to receive donations.

I hope that I have whet your appetite to find out more about the many facets of *Rotary,* which has 1.2 million members in 200 countries and which is, and has been for many years, working to finally eradicate polio.

You could help protect the world from this awful disease which could, until eradicated, flare up again anywhere, by supporting *Rotary*.

Our club is actively looking for new members to continue the beneficial work that we do locally and enjoy the social life and have fun. Do get in touch.

Contact: Mike Smith, Rotary Club of Cambridge South, smithmichaelstanley@hotmail.com



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FEN EDGE GROUPS

FEN EDGE VOICES

Celebrating our Inaugural Performance

This month *Fen Edge Voices* took to the stage at the *Fen Edge Festival* for its inaugural performance, an eagerly anticipated milestone for the newly formed choir.

The varied programme included *California Dreamin'*, *Edelweiss* and the choir's firm favourite, *Dancing Queen*. The upbeat performance was warmly received by the audience, with many singing along to familiar songs and joining in with an interactive piece.

Thanks to funding from *Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire Mind*'s *Good Life Fund* and *Cambridgeshire County Council*'s *Reach Fund*, the choir continues to provide a safe and encouraging space for the local community, using the power of music to support mental well-being and social connection.

Members describe the choir as:

"Choir is a fantastic way to unwind after a busy, stressful day. It brings me so much joy. I love being part of a choir and being with wonderful people. Everyone should do it!"

"Choir is fresh, fabulous and fun, the perfect relaxation after a busy day."

"Rehearsal is a precious segment of time in our lives. It brings everyone together in the moment, sharing the joy of music."

"I really enjoy the choir. I leave after rehearsal each week with a big smile on my face."

Since the first rehearsal in January, *Fen Edge Voices* has welcomed more than 60 members, ranging from experienced singers to those new to choir singing. Led by Jasmine Habgood and accompanied by Rich Mandal, the choir rehearses weekly, exploring a varied repertoire from *Whitacre* to *West End* classics.

Jasmine is a local musical director and music tutor specialising in inclusive and encouraging music teaching. She has extensive experience of using music to support well-being in community settings and is passionate about widening access to music education. Supported by a scholarship from the *Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851*, Jasmine will begin an MSc in *Performance Science* at the *Royal College of Music* in September.

Her research will explore the role of music in well-being, with the aim of informing policy that improves access to high-quality music education in schools with limited music provision.

Rich is a second-year music undergraduate at *King's College, Cambridge* and recipient of the *2024 King's International Studentship*. He is a musical director, conductor, singer, pianist, percussionist and accomplished composer who has received several prestigious national awards.

Raised in India, he studied Indian classical music for 14 years before moving to the UK. He has composed acclaimed music for productions including *And Then There Were None*, *Dial M for Murder* and, most notably, *Medea*, which featured a cinematic soundtrack performed by a live band.

Fen Edge Voices is supported by a dedicated committee of volunteers who oversee rehearsals, membership, fundraising, communications and member well-being, helping to ensure the continued success and popularity of the choir.

Committee – Chair: Sally Mattson
Deputy Chair: Jo Truszczynska
Secretary: Tricia Bradley
Treasurer: Pauline Allin
Fundraising: Sara Brierton
Media: Dave Bradley
Membership: Caroline Brett
Social Secretary: Pippa Ellis
Well-being: Sue Smith and John McNamara

The choir looks forward to expanding its repertoire and performing more regularly across the local area. Although currently at capacity, anyone interested in joining is welcome to enquire about the waiting list.

For updates on future performances, including the choir's forthcoming Christmas concerts, follow *Fen Edge Voices* on social media (@fenedgevoices) or visit www.fenedgevoices.org.uk

FEN EDGE ORCHESTRA

We rehearse on Wednesdays at *Cottenham Village Hall*. We are an adult amateur orchestra with no auditions, and usually do two concerts each year.

To enquire about joining, contact fenedgeorchestra@googlemail.com or see fenedgeorchestra.wordpress.com.

We would particularly like to hear from potential first violin, oboe or trumpet players.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

All meetings take place in *St Andrew's Centre, Histon.* Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30–9:15pm meeting. Members are free and guests welcome, charged at £3.

Monday 7 September – *The history of Edward Charlesworth* by Dominic Davey

Monday 12 October – *Exceptional fossils–the Surprising, the Significant and the Strange* by Dr Peter Sheldon

Monday 9 November – *The Trinity Cobbles–a story of plate tectonics in miniature* by Professor Marian Holness

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

We have seen several **staffing and membership changes** in recent months. After many years of dedicated service, parish clerk Mandy Powell has retired. Mandy has been at the heart of the council's work, providing invaluable support, knowledge and commitment, and will be greatly missed by councillors and residents.

We welcome Amy Rudderham as our new parish clerk, Sophie McNally as deputy clerk, and Aisha Rashid as a newly co-opted councillor.

We also say a fond farewell and heartfelt thank you to councillor Linda King, who has recently retired from the parish council. Linda has worked tirelessly on behalf of the parish and has made a lasting contribution to the community through her dedication, enthusiasm and years of service. We wish both Linda and Mandy a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Enjoying and protecting wildlife – The parish council recently received a thoughtful letter from a young resident asking what we are doing to help wildlife in and around Willingham. We were delighted to hear from someone taking such an interest in nature and the environment, and the question provides a good opportunity to remind residents about some of the green spaces and wildlife habitats within the area.

Over recent years, the council has established and maintained a number of areas where wildlife can thrive alongside community use.

The **Community Wildlife Meadow** on Meadow Road provides valuable food and shelter for insects, birds and other wildlife. Earlier this summer, *Willingham Action Group* held its first wildlife walk here, where participants explored the meadow and enjoyed pond dipping, helping people of all ages discover more about the plants and animals that live in Willingham and how we can all support local wildlife.

Part of the **cemetery** has been set aside as a re-wilding area, allowing plants to grow more naturally and create important habitats.

The **Community Orchard** is a welcoming green space on Earith Road made up of fruit trees such as apples, plums and other traditional orchard varieties, set within wildflower grassland that supports bees, butterflies and other pollinators, along with birds and small wildlife that benefit from blossom in spring and fallen fruit in autumn.

Barton Field is a more recently created community green space, given to the village in 2022, with open grassland and young hedgerows that are starting to build a new habitat for birds, insects and small wildlife. It's a simple, natural area on the edge of the village where people can enjoy quiet walks, dog walking and a bit of fresh air.

We are also developing plans for part of the **QEII playground** area behind *Ploughman Hall* to be dedicated to wildflowers, creating an attractive habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects.

As autumn arrives, the colours and activity in these spaces begin to change, but they remain just as important for both wildlife and residents. The orchard, meadow, *Barton Field* and other green spaces are there for everyone to enjoy. Whether you are out for a walk, watching the changing seasons, spending time with family, or simply looking for a quiet place to sit and appreciate nature, these areas are part of our village and open to all.

It is encouraging to see local groups helping residents connect with nature. The wildlife walk at the *Community Wildlife Meadow* is a great example of this, bringing people together to explore and learn more about the local environment. Events such as these help people of all ages discover the plants and animals that live in Willingham and learn more about how we can all play a part in supporting local wildlife.

We would like to thank the young resident who took the time to write to us. Their letter is a welcome reminder that caring for our local environment is something that brings the whole community together, and that residents of all ages have an important role to play in helping Willingham's wildlife flourish.

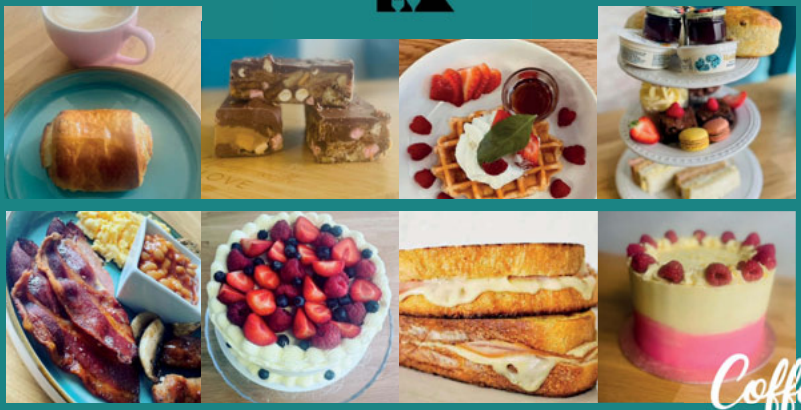
Council meetings – These are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month, starting at 7.30pm. Agendas are published on the website and on the notice board outside the Public Hall in the High Street. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak briefly or ask questions; see agendas for further details.

Contact details

Councillors' details can be found on the website willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact the clerk at 01954 261027
clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

SAINT MARY AND ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, WILLINGHAM

Services – our weekly Sunday services are held at 11am. During each month we use a variety of forms of service, including a *Café Church Service*, which is held in the *Octagon Hall* behind the church. Everyone is welcome and there are activities for children, who come with family members. For further information please contact our Vicar, Ed Green.

Visit – the church is in the centre of the village and is open every day. Why not visit to see the famous wall paintings and unusual *Anchorite Room*, (leaflets in the church set out the main features) or just to spend some quiet time in this lovely space.

Octagon Hall – the first phase of our project to restore and renovate the *Octagon Hall* and kitchen is almost complete. We are extremely grateful for the funds received from several local benefactors and for the time invested by many individuals to enable us to reach this stage.

The hall and kitchen have been completely modernised and re-equipped to provide a warm and adaptable space supported by a modernised kitchen for church activities, regular community courses and independent bookings for family or social events. Present bookings include the weekly *Willingham Community Hub*, local council meetings, yoga, line dancing and private children's parties. The photo shows the size and presentation of the refurbished hall for anyone considering a family / social event or series of meetings to consider whether the *Octagon Hall* could provide a suitable environment for your event.

Details of all forthcoming Services and events are shown on our website
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13843

Contacts
Rev Ed Green (Vicar)
01954 716894 ed@5folds.org

Colin Smith (Administrator)
01954 203459 admin@5folds.org.uk



The newly restored Octagon Hall

FRIENDS OF WILLINGHAM CHURCH

St Mary and All Saints, Willingham

Saturday 26 September, 2pm – An afternoon of music plus a short talk about the history of the church building. Refreshments are available to purchase afterwards. This is a fundraising event, tickets are £5 per person. Please sign up by email or pay at the door.

For more details, please contact us by email and look out for posters around Willingham, on social media, or in *The Willingham News*, which is also available online.

You can also help by joining the Friends. We would love some new friends. By joining, you will receive updates on our restoration projects when they get underway and invitations to events. If you can, please support the Friends with a donation of £10 every six months per household, or whatever you can afford. You can set up a standing order or make a payment by BACS.

To become a friend or just find out more about us, email friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com

WILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

We are a friendly, growing church, at the heart of our community. Our regular Sunday services at 10am, are relaxed and informal with songs, prayers and teaching. We have a Sunday school for children and an altogether family service on the third Sunday of the month. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a regular church-goer, or just curious to explore faith in a friendly setting.

We run various activities during the week, such as:

TOPS, for children aged 0–5 to play and their carers, on Tuesdays 9.30–11.30am.

Bible study on alternate Tuesdays 2.30–3.30pm.

Coffee mornings on Wednesdays 10–11.30am.

Community lunches for senior citizens on alternate Thursdays at 12 noon.

Men's breakfasts once a month on the third Saturday 7.45–9.15 am.

See www.willinghambaptist.org for more details, times and other information and follow us on Facebook.

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FECA IN WILLINGHAM

THE OCTAGON COMMUNITY HUB

The *Octagon Community Hub* is open every Monday 10am–12.30pm throughout the summer and autumn. Tea and coffee, with toast and jam or marmalade is served from 10–10.30am and a light lunch like jacket potatoes, soup or pasta is available at 11.45am. Tea and coffee are on offer throughout the morning.

We don't charge for refreshments, but donations towards the second phase of the *Octagon Improvement Project* are appreciated. We are now in the process of updating the toilet facilities and replacing the hall curtains to benefit all those who use the *Octagon*.

There is always someone to chat to if you would like some company. We also have regular visits from our village agent, who is supported by *Cambridgeshire ACRE*. She can offer confidential and free of charge independent advice and support covering different issues, as well as help you access a range of services.

There are magazines, books, puzzles, games, knitting and mindful colouring to enjoy as well.

Please follow the footpath to the left of the church gate and you will find the *Octagon* behind the church. We are wheelchair accessible and have a disabled toilet. We look forward to welcoming you.

Contact: admin@5folds.org.uk

WILLINGHAM ACTION GROUP

Willingham Village Fête – It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces at the *Willingham Village Fête* in July. Following the *Fen Gallop*, the event continued into the afternoon with entertainment, stalls and plenty of opportunity for the community to catch up. Thank you to everyone who attended, and especially to the volunteers and community groups who helped make the day such a success.

Community Larder – In June we launched our new community larder in the foyer of *St Mary and All Saints' Church*, Church Street, Willingham. Anyone in need of essential items is welcome to help themselves and, if able, to donate non-perishable goods. The response so far has been very positive, highlighting the kindness and community spirit that exists within the village. Please help spread the word and support the project where you can.

Willingham Feast – Willingham has much to celebrate, from its farming heritage to the strong sense of community that brings people together year after year. Feast has long been an important village tradition, rooted in harvest celebrations and community pride.

This autumn we are delighted to expand the feast celebrations with a series of events, activities and opportunities to reconnect and celebrate together. We hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Visit our Facebook page for the full programme.

Website: www.willinghamlife.co.uk

Email: events@willinghamlife.co.uk

WILLINGHAM MEMORY BOX CAFÉ

What is it all about? Who do we welcome? – Our friendly team of volunteers welcomes guests from anywhere, not just Willingham, including people living with memory loss, those who are frail, or those with other illnesses of any kind. Guests are invited to come with a companion and enjoy relaxation, chat, songs, fun and home-baked cakes.

We meet from 10am–12 noon on the second Saturday of each month in the Octagon, behind *Saint Mary and All Saints' Church* in Willingham.
The Octagon has wheelchair access.
There is no charge, and all are welcome.

Future dates are **Saturday 8 August**, **Saturday 12 September**, **Saturday 10 October** and **Saturday 14 November**.

Please do come along, even if it is just to find out what goes on. We would really like to see you.

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memoryboxcafe@yahoo.com

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Doors from 3pm Thursday & Friday
Doors from 12pm Saturday, Sunday & Monday

FECA IN WILLINGHAM

WILLINGHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We meet at *Willingham Social Club*, Fen End, Willingham CB24 5LH on the second Monday of the month at 7pm (except August).

Recent meetings

In April, Katie Lynn from *Molten Wonky* on making Handmade Fused Glass. Katie explained how she arrived at the unusual name for her company, and also brought a selection of her work which was available to purchase.

In May *The Shanty Workshop,* with Stuart Green entertained us, getting all the members singing and acting the shanty songs.

In June, Fran Saltmarsh entertained the members with *Fig Leaves and Feather Boas*, using a screen show to explain about olden to modern day dress.

In July we had a summer party in one of the members garden.

Meetings

Monday 14 September – our speaker is Sara Phipps with *The History of Bingo and Lingo.* Sara will explain the history of Bingo and all the relevant lingo then we will have a game of bingo. We have heard from other WIs how entertaining Sara is.

Monday 12 October – Mike Wabe will present *Paranormal in Cambridge* – history brought to life, our WI had Mike to tell us about Christmas last December, he is a very good clearly spoken speaker.

Monday 9 November – Mel from *Creative Grounds* will get us all in the Christmas spirit making items using Origami.

Monday 14 December – Christmas party with entertainment (members only).

Other events

Monday 4 August – A guided tour of Ely. For further information please contact willinghamwi28@gmail.com.

Friday 25 September – A guided tour of Cambridge. For further information please contact willinghamwi28@gmail.com

As you can see we have a very varied programme of speakers to entertain. Anyone wishing to join us for any of the events would be very welcome, just email us or come along to one of the evenings. We are a small but very friendly group of ladies.

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WATERBEACH MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

The *Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum* tells the story of the former airfield from 1938, when the land was purchased, through the arrival of the RAF in 1941 and its departure in 1966. The *Royal Engineers* occupied the site from 1966 until 2012. Today, the area is being developed as *Waterbeach New Town*.

There are many fascinating stories associated with the former RAF Station and Royal Engineers Barracks. Here are just a few.

During an air display at Waterbeach RAF Station on **15 September 1951**, two *Meteor Mk 8* jets collided in mid-air. Both aircraft crashed, fortunately avoiding the 20,000 spectators attending the show. Flying Officer Robin Pavey was tragically killed when his aircraft plunged to the ground. Flying Officer Leonard Smith survived despite losing the tail section of his aircraft. After struggling to release the cockpit canopy, he ejected at 1,200ft and his parachute opened at 500ft, allowing him to land safely.

Smith continued his RAF career and later assisted in the filming of *Reach for the Sky*, starring Kenneth More as Douglas Bader. During the famous sequence in which Bader demonstrates his flying abilities in a *Hurricane*, Leonard Smith was the pilot performing the manoeuvres. The aircraft used, LF363, is now part of the *Battle of Britain Memorial Flight*.



Kenneth More and Leonard Smith during the making of Reach for the Sky (Photo: WMHM).

Project Mould
A new display has been installed by the *Duxford Radio Trust*, illustrating the nationwide communications network developed during the Cold War to ensure government and essential services could continue functioning in the event of attack.



514 Squadron RAF – The squadron, which flew *Lancaster* bombers from Waterbeach between 1943 and 1945, held its annual reunion on **Friday 27 June 2026** with a service at *St John's Church*, Waterbeach. A wreath was laid by Wing Commander Mark McNulty MBE of the *Battle of Britain Memorial Flight*, who also serves as a navigator on the *Dakota* and *Lancaster*. One of the few surviving veterans of 514 Squadron attended: former Lancaster mid-upper gunner Sgt Birt Hammond, aged 101½. The BBMF flypast was carried out by the *Dakota* at 12.32pm.



Birt Hammond

Opening times – The museum is open on the first Sunday and Wednesday of each month from March to October, 10am–4pm. It is also open on the third Sunday of every month, 10am–3pm, when the Community Market is held at the former barracks. Visiting groups can be accommodated at other times by arrangement.

Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum, Building 3, Waterbeach Barracks, Denny End Road, Waterbeach CB25 9PA.

Contact: waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org

Website: www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk

Facebook: follow us on Facebook

Telephone: 01223 861846

We look forward to welcoming visitors.

Adrian Wright and Les Moss

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WATERBEACH CRICKET CLUB

It seems strange to be writing an article in mid-June for an August–November publication, as by then the *Waterbeach Cricket Club* season will be almost over.

Many readers will know that we play on the local recreation ground. We are a small club competing only in the local evening league, which means an early finish before the nights draw in. Games are normally played between 6–9pm. There is no longer a weekend side, although we still play an annual Sunday friendly against *The Sun*, while evening friendlies supplement league fixtures. We can also call on players from clubs such as Cottenham and Milton to join our regular Waterbeach players. At present we are third in the league, with one win, one defeat and one rained-off game, rearranged for later in the season.

At the time of writing, league games remain against *Stapleford Phoenix* away on 23 June, *Cambridge Tamil Sangam* home on 1 July, *Dobblers* away on 15 July, *Telugu Association of Cambridge* home on 22 July, Fen Ditton away on 29 July and Cambourne home on **Wednesday 5 August**. The highlight of the season will have been the A10 derby against Milton on 8 July, a fixture we have won for the last four years.

We are well supported by *Waterbeach Parish Council*, including the groundsman who prepares our pitches. This season we have been exploring funding opportunities with the council and other organisations to replace our ageing nets, and discussions are ongoing.

The club always welcomes new members, whatever their age, gender or ability, as well as supporters and sponsors. If you enjoy cricket at any level, come along to a home game and introduce yourself, or contact Chairman Rakesh or Captain Sandesh (see details below). There is usually an end-of-season gathering, and you might even receive an invitation if we know who you are.

Contacts

Chairman: Rakesh Panigrahi
Rakesh134@gmail.com 07521 061487
Captain: Sandesh Dambekodi
Sandesh.a.dambekodi@gmail.com 07424 523494

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FECA IN RAMPTON

RAMPTON TEA CLUB

We welcome residents from Rampton and other *Fen Edge Patch* villages twice a month on Tuesdays for a friendly chat or a stimulating talk. We meet at *Rampton Village Hall* from 2.30–4.30pm. Tea and cake are provided. Cost is £3 (cash only).

Tuesday 4 and 18 August – Tea and Chat

Tuesday 1 and 15 September – Tea and Chat

Tuesday 29 September – *The Story of Cambridge in One Hole by* Alison Dickens. Local archaeologist and historian Alison Dickens will describe how excavation of a sewer shaft in central Cambridge revealed evidence spanning almost the whole of the city's history, along with a number of surprises.

Tuesday 13 October – Tea and Chat

Tuesday 27 October – *Climate and Energy* by Dr Daniel Cole from Oxford University.

Tuesday 10 November – Tea and Chat

Tuesday 24 November – Musical meeting (TBC)

Contact: ramptonteaclub@gmail.com 07703 765155

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/ramptonteaclub

RAMPTON SPINNERS

We enjoy meeting the public and have recently demonstrated spinning at *Swaffham Prior Village Fete*, *Fen Edge Festival* and *Ely Harvest Festival*.

We meet on Saturdays seven times a year in *Rampton Village Hall.* New members and visitors are welcome.

Meetings: Saturdays **5 September**, **7 November** and **5 December** 10am–4pm. Hot drinks are available all day but please bring your own packed lunch. There is a spinning wheel which you can borrow to have a go.

Contact: Rampton.guild@gmail.com

RAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

The hall is available to hire for groups, celebrations and parties, as well as for regular bookings. Our competitive rates are listed on the booking page: www.ramptonvillagehall.co.uk/how-to-book.html

Regular talks and classes are held in the hall, including social clubs, art classes and exercise classes. Please see our website for more information.

RAMPTON '77 COMMITTEE

Rampton Relay – Sunday 6 September from 2pm onwards starting at the Parkland, Rampton. Information available on *Rampton Village Hall* website www.ramptonvillagehall.co.uk

RAMPTON HORSE SHOW

Saturday 19 September from 9am – This is the 38th *Rampton Horse Show,* which is held at *The Parkland*, High Street, Rampton, adjacent to *All Saints' Church*.

This year's show promises a great mix of serious competition and fun classes for riders of all ages and abilities, including *In-Hand* and *Ridden Showing*, *Dressage*, *Show Jumping*, *Gymkhana*, *Fun Classes* and *Fancy Dress*.

Dogs are also welcome to take part in the ever-popular dog show, featuring classes such as *Sausage Obedience* and *Best Biscuit Catcher*. For the first time, a *Doggy Fancy Dress* class has been added.

All classes can be entered in advance or on the day.

Proceeds from this year's show will be donated to *East Anglian Air Ambulance*, a highly valued local charity.

"It takes a team to help save a life. From fundraisers to flying officers, it takes a whole crew to keep East Anglian Air Ambulance ready to respond."

For the latest news as the show approaches, visit www.ramptonhorseshow.org or follow us on Facebook. We look forward to seeing you there.



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FECA IN RAMPTON

The team's efforts to enhance wildflower areas around the village over the spring and summer have been rewarded.

A survey of the 'no mow' verges and recreation ground meadow in June revealed a significant increase in species since the first survey in 2025.

We were particularly pleased to find that the number of wildflower species in the area we manage has almost tripled, increasing from seven to nineteen.

Wildflowers are also appearing in the first pumpkin patch planted last year, where the pumpkins have helped reduce soil fertility and create conditions in which wildflowers can thrive, despite the exceptionally dry weather. A second pumpkin patch has now been planted to restore a further 50m² of meadow, although the dry conditions have required considerable watering.

Thanks to the generosity of the *Rampton 77 Committee* and *Fairies*, we have purchased 20 swift nest boxes. We are also grateful to Marilyn Peterkin of the *Cottenham Swift Action Group* for sharing her expertise on siting boxes to ensure easy access and protection from the elements. Eleven households have volunteered to host one or more boxes, helping to boost the local swift population and contribute to the *South Cambridgeshire Swift Corridor* being developed by the *CamSwift Action Group*.

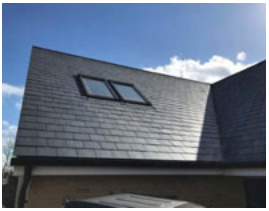
Saturday 26 September, 11am–12.30pm Community clothes swap (*Swish*), *Rampton Village Hall*. Give unwanted clothes a new lease of life, reduce the environmental impact of the clothing industry and perhaps pick up a bargain. A café serving cakes and sweet treats will also be available.

Saturday 17 October, 2pm – Autumn litter pick. Meet on the village green to collect litter grabbers, then return to the village hall afterwards for refreshments and a chat with friends and neighbours.

Contact: sustainablerampton@gmail.com

Website: https://sustainablerampton.org.uk/

Facebook: sustainablerampton







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FECA IN LANDBEACH

FRIENDS OF WORTS MEADOW

At the time of writing (late June) the temperature outside is hovering at the 35°C mark and our local nature reserve (LNR) *Worts Meadow* is pretty dry. What a contrast to the start of the year. Our ponds are now rapidly drying up, as they did last year and we are wondering if this is going to become a pattern in future years and what effect this will have on our wildlife.

Early May saw 17 early risers attend our *Dawn Chorus Listen and Learn* using the *Merlin Smartphone App* to help identify and record the birds singing out and proclaiming their territorial rights on the reserve. With bird experts Dick Newell and Robert Humphrey confirming our identifications, we listed 32 birds from their songs, and were able to pinpoint and see many of them directly. Only one species (*Common Whitethroat*) was recorded on Merlin, but not seen or heard by us. Conversely a Linnet was seen and heard by Dick, but not picked up by Merlin. *Great Tits* and *Blue Tits* occupied most of our bird boxes in the wood this year, bringing up their next generation(s). It's a lovely experience standing quietly watching a nest box for 15 minutes and recording who flies in and out. That's how we know the occupancy rate, backed up by seeing which ones have nests in them when we clean them out in November, ready for the next season.

You need to be 'late to bed and early to rise' for *Great Crested Newt* surveys. The photo (top right) shows volunteer surveyors with appropriate licences from the *Cambridge County Council* ecology team and *MKA Ecology*, making early morning checks for these newts in 'bottle traps' set in *Worts Meadow* ponds the previous evening.

We have continued to help with the management of the reserve through our monthly work parties (see below), though the hard task of keeping the meadows in shape is done by the cows! At the end of April we erected the electric fences around the moat and field pond in readiness for the arrival of this year's six young females. They are now placidly grazing, unfazed by rain, sunshine or walkers. Since the AGM on 28 May last year and 19 May this year, we ran ten work parties, equating to approximately 106 man hours.

Do come and join us on any of our future public events. We are planning at least one further event later this year, so keep an eye on the *Fen Edge News* website diary calendar.

Work parties – 4th Wednesday each month (except August and December). Meet at 9.30am at entrance to *Bourne Wood*, Cockfen Lane.

Our group is free to join. Our open events provide the chance to learn about and enjoy the wildlife of *Worts Meadow* LNR 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





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FECA IN LANDBEACH

LANDBEACH AND MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH

We are a joyful and welcoming Baptist church, committed to supporting people and sharing God's love through worship, friendship and service.

Our **regular Sunday service** takes place each week at 10.30am, and everyone is invited to join us. Whether you have been part of church life for many years, are new to the area, or have never been to church before, you will receive a warm welcome. Services include singing, prayer, Bible readings, and clear, practical teaching that connects Christian faith with everyday life.

On the **first Sunday of each month** at 9.45am, we hold a prayer meeting: a time to pray for our church, our villages and the wider world. Church and community activities continue throughout the week, with opportunities to connect, build friendships and encourage one another.

Regular activities

Tuesdays at 2pm (from September) – Coffee and chat, an informal afternoon of refreshments and conversation

Wednesdays at 2pm – *Knit and Natter Craft Group*, a relaxed and friendly gathering for creative projects and conversation

Wednesdays at 2.15pm – Bible study, a thoughtful time to explore Scripture together through discussion and reflection

Second Saturday of each month (except August) **at 9.30am** – *Men's Breakfast*, with good food, meaningful conversation, prayer and a short talk sharing how God is at work in everyday life

Second Sunday of each month at **10.30am** *Messy Church,* a lively and creative gathering for families, with crafts, stories, songs and food shared together.

Whether you are looking for spiritual encouragement, a friendly face, a church home for you or your family, or simply a place to seek God, you will find a genuine welcome at *Landbeach and Milton Baptist Church*. Why not come along and see what we are all about?

Contact – lambchurch.uk
Pastor Chris Tanton, 07535 385669

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LANDBEACH (FOALS)

Following the successful *Corpus Christi* choral concert, wreath-making workshop in February, AGM and garage sale in May, and a well-attended garden fête in July, *Friends of All Saints' Church, Landbeach* are now looking forward to an exciting autumn programme.

Our harvest supper and barn dance will be held jointly with Waterbeach, while the traditional pudding evening has evolved into a curry and pudding night with Quiz. The *Advent Gala Dinner* and *Christmas Tree Festival* continue to grow in popularity.

Autumn events – Save the dates. Further details will be available on the *Fen Edge Community Association* website.

The barn dance is always great fun and a real family occasion. The *Christmas Tree Festival* is also a highlight of the season, with trees decorating the church from **Thursday 26 November**.

The transformed church can be visited over the following weekend, with voting for favourite displays and prizes awarded in a number of categories, including "children" and "group", on **Sunday 29 November**. It is a wonderful start to the festive season and everyone is welcome.

Enquiries

John.buckley@sustenergy.co.uk
janemaryoakes@gmail.com

TITHE BARN TRUST

What's On

Sunday 23 August, 1–3pm – Live music. A rare opportunity to hear talented young musicians perform. See our website for details.



Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September, 10am–4pm – Art exhibition and "barn memories". Explore works by local artists set against the backdrop of the medieval tithe barn. Learn about the history of the barn, meet the artists and perhaps find a masterpiece to take home. Visitors are also invited to contribute memories to the trust's oral history project. Children's activities and light refreshments will be available.

Saturday 19 September, 10am–4pm – Family history day. Discover how to preserve precious family papers, photographs and heirlooms, and learn how to begin researching your family tree. Children's activities and light refreshments will be available.

Further information on all events can be found at tithebarntrust.org.uk/events



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM UNITED COLTS FC

Cottenham Colts Girls on tour in Exmouth – Cottenham Colts took three girls' teams on a football tour to Exmouth in June to take part in a tournament against clubs from Exmouth, Plymouth, Bristol and towns across Devon. The girls played in six-a-side and nine-a-side tournaments on Saturday and Sunday, as well as taking part in activities arranged by *Exmouth Town Football Club*, including a visit to the beach and team-building activities.

The weather was perfect, with blue skies throughout the trip, and the girls saw Devon at its best, staying in a beautiful location just outside Tiverton. Most of the players on the trip were from *Cottenham Village College*, with others from *Impington Village College*, Northstowe, Ely, *Stephen Perse* and Swavesey.

All the girls played brilliantly across the two days of competition. The under-15 girls came up against tough opposition but handled themselves well, narrowly missing out on a trophy on day two by a single goal. Two of the under-13 girls' teams reached the final of the six-a-side tournament, making it an all-Cottenham match on the Saturday. They played out a fierce 2–0 game, earning champions and runners-up spots respectively.

On the Sunday, the under-13s went on to win the nine-a-side tournament after three hard-fought matches. Needing a win in the final game, Molly Butcher got on the end of Robyn Goddard's long ball forward to win the match and the trophy with the final kick of the game.

The trip is part of *our* commitment to girls' football in the village, which is growing year on year. We run *Wildcats* sessions on Monday evenings for girls looking for an introduction to football, and next season will have teams playing in leagues from under-9s to under-16s.

New Chairman at Cottenham Colts – Our Chairman, Tom Webb, is stepping down now that the season has finished, after two years in post, and leaves the club in the best shape it has been in for years. He has helped restart our *Wildcats* programme, which introduces young girls to football, enabled stand-alone goalkeeper training for players across all teams, and continued to support our *Monday Night Soccer School*.

Tom's legacy includes the drive to generate funds for the club in many creative ways, including annual events such as the Christmas party, the colts golf day and the five-a-side tournament. Last year, Tom raised funds with other colts members by completing the *Three Peaks Challenge*, and he attended our first trip abroad to Avrillé in France, with which the villages of the *Fen Edge Patch* are twinned. We thank Tom for all his hard work and know he will continue to be a big part of the club.

Mark Evans will take over as club chairman for the new season. Mark runs our under-13 boys team and has been an active member of the committee for several years, so the club will be in safe hands under his leadership.

Contact – To play for one of the Cottenham Colts girls' teams, leave a message at www.cottenhamunitedcolts.com/contactus

Local businesses interested in sponsoring kit for new strips should email Ben Daft at ben.daft@gmail.com



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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Coffee shop – Open for drinks, breakfast and lunch: Mondays 9am–4.30pm; Tuesdays–Fridays 9am–2pm; Saturdays 10am–2pm.
The coffee shop only will be closed from 26 August–1 September inclusive.

Volunteering – Volunteering is a great way to make friends, learn new skills and contribute to the local community. New coffee shop volunteers are needed. Email manager@cottenhamcc.org, pop in to the coffee shop or visit www.cottenhamcc.org/volunteer. Volunteers to lead new activities are also welcome. If you have an idea for a community activity, or would be interested in occasional shared workspace sessions away from home, please contact bookings@cottenhamcc.org
The building offers excellent Wi-Fi, air conditioning and comfortable surroundings.

Venue hire – Facilities include the main hall with fitted stainless-steel kitchen, the *Skylight Room* upstairs and the coffee shop room outside coffee shop hours. The centre is ideal for meetings, classes, children's parties, anniversaries, funeral wakes, wedding receptions and christening celebrations. Soft play equipment is available to hire and catering can often be arranged through the coffee shop. For bookings email bookings@cottenhamcc.org.

Support us – Cottenham Community Centre has been chosen by the Co-op as a community cause until October. Co-op members can nominate us at membership.coop.co.uk/causes or coopapp.onelink.me/ftOk/h0lwbyqf.

Easy Fundraising
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cottenhamcc support us at no cost when shopping online.

Benefact nominations: benefactgroup.com we could receive £1,000 or even £5,000.

Indian head massage and reflexology: cottenhamholisticappointment@gmail.com

Gift cards from £5: treasurer@cottenhamcc.org

Artwork, cards, jams (available until August) and quality second-hand books are on sale in the coffee shop.

Membership – £15 adults, £10 seniors, £5 youths. Join at www.cottenhamcc.org/membership. Membership includes a free beverage after ten purchases, 10% discount on individual hires, a quarterly newsletter and voting rights at the AGM.

We wish all our community centre users a very happy community summer.

Address: 250A High Street Cottenham CB24 8RZ

Tel: 01954 202109
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CottCommCentre
Instagram: cottenhamcoffeeshop
Website: www.cottenhamcc.org
Email: bookings@cottenhamcc.org

What's on – Monthly summaries are posted on social media, the centre's website, the TV screen and posters around the building. New classes and members are always welcome (TTO = term time only).

New class – Expert maths tuition with Lydia Joshua in the Skylight Room, six days a week, 9am–6pm, for ages 6–18. Contact 07979 603455 or lydiaojoshua@gmail.com.

Mondays – 4th Dimension children's dance (TTO), 3.45–7.30pm, www.4D-dance.co.uk. Spaces available for 3–5 year olds; Zumba, 7–8pm, www.jjkdancin.com; Tea and Talk for Men (fortnightly), 7.30–8.30pm. No agenda, no pressure, just tea, conversation and a warm welcome.

Tuesdays – Yoga (TTO), 10–11.30am, denise@sibleymooreyoga.co.uk;
Craft Group, 10am, drop-in; *Fen Edge Voices*, 7.30–9.30pm, fenedgevoices@gmail.com. The choir restarts after the summer break on **Tuesday 8 September**.

Wednesdays – Little Humbugs, 9.30am, www.facebook.com/LittleHumbugsCottenham; Knitting Group, 10am, drop-in; *Cottenham Supports Ukraine*, 10.30am, drop-in; Ukrainian-style art class, 2–3pm, restarting after the summer, expressions of interest to lulica135@yahoo.com; *Whirl and Twirl* (TTO), 7–9pm, whirltwirlrdc@gmail.com

Thursdays – Community Craft Group, message cottenhamcommunitycrafters on Instagram;
Thursday 14 August, 7–9pm – Adult workshop, Felt Flower Bookmarks; *Healthy 4 Life* (50+ exercise), 10–11am and 11.15am–12.15pm, vanessa@summerhill.myzen.co.uk; Zumba, 7–8pm, www.jjkdancin.com

Fridays – Pilates, 9–10am and 10–11am, Danielle.parmenter@sky.com; Toy Library soft play, **25 September, 9 and 23 October, 6 and 20 November**, 11.15am–12.15pm, cottenhamtoylibrary.co.uk/events-calendar. The *Cottenham Toy Library* urgently seeks new committee members. *Teddies Story Time*, 11.30am–12.30pm on **2 and 16 October, 13 and 27 November**. Children's workshops take place on **Wednesday 5 and 19 August**, 12.30–1.30pm, with a children's craft workshop planned for **Wednesday 28 October**, 11.30am–12.30pm (TBC).

Saturdays – *Kids Play*, usually the first Saturday of the month, 11am–12 noon. Dates: **1 August, 5 September, 3 October and 7 November**. Drop-in.

Events – Community Cinema: Sundays **6 September, 11 October and 1 November**, 7.30pm. Usually held on the first Sunday of the month; there is no screening in August and the October film is one week later than usual. Booking is recommended. Facebook: CottenhamCommunityCinema.

Sunday 4 October, 7 for 7.30pm – Folk evening with Irish singer Richie Ros. Tickets £10. Book at www.ticketsource.com/cottenham-community-cinema/richie-ros/e-rpmryp

Saturday 10 October, 11am–12 noon – Swift Group.

Saturday 14 November, 10am–2pm – Repair Café. Bring along items for repair.

Wednesday 25 November, 6.30pm – Christmas wreath making. Everything provided; booking essential.

Saturday 28 November, 10am–2pm – Christmas Market



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FECA IN COTTENHAM



Cottenham United Football Club displays the banner of club sponsor C P Richards Carpenter & Joinery Services.

Photo by Ian Stuchbury

After a difficult 2025/26 season, the club achieved its main objective of retaining its place in the *Cambs FA Go Cardless Senior B League*. This is a credit to all the players, manager and coaches, whose hard work and effort last season have been rewarded.

Planning has already started for the 2026/27 season. Pre-season training began at the end of June and will move to Wednesday evenings, 8–9pm, from the **start of September**, with all training at *Cottenham Village College Sports Centre,* either on the playing field or the new 3G football pitch. Dates and times for all training will be advertised on our social media.

We are looking for new players to join and strengthen the club. If you are interested in playing men's senior football, please get in touch via the club email.

We currently have one senior team, but hope to introduce a reserve team in the near future if there is sufficient interest to support a second team.

If you are a fan of grass-roots football, please come along to Cottenham recreation ground and support your local village football club. All home and away games, together with kick-off times, will be advertised on our social media. The new season starts on **Wednesday 19 August**.

Club sponsorship – If you are a local company interested in becoming a club sponsor, we would be pleased to hear from you. We can offer a number of advertising packages; please email the club with an initial enquiry.

We look forward to welcoming you next season as a player, spectator or potential club sponsor. Please also keep an eye on our social media for upcoming village social events, which will help raise funds for the club.

Ian Stuchbury (Chairman) Cottenham United FC

Email: cottenhamunitedfc@hotmail.com

Website: www.cottenhamunitedfc.co.uk

COTTENHAM THEATRE WORKSHOP

Tickets for *Charlotte and the Cottenham Factory*, our 2026 Christmas spectacular, will soon be on sale.

This production will be a "pure re-imagination" of a much-loved show. *Charlotte and the Cottenham Factory* is a brand-new family show, penned and directed by longstanding *CTW* members Emily and Tom Copeland. It is packed with comedy, colourful characters, and hit songs you will know and love.

Join Charlotte Pail as she wins a once-in-a-lifetime chance to enter the mysterious factory of the eccentric Wally Wonky, where magical sweets, mischievous Loomp-Alikes and plenty of surprises await.

The show runs from **Wednesday 2–Saturday 5 December 2026** at *Cottenham Village College*. Weekday performances begin at 7.30pm.

On **Saturday 5 December**, there will be two performances: a matinee at 1pm and an evening performance at 5.30pm.

Tickets will be available from **Monday 12 October** via www.cottenhamtheatre.com or through third-party provider *Ticketsource* by calling 0333 666 4466.

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

Contact – For any issues or queries, email cottenhamtheatre@gmail.com

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COTTENHAM RENEGADES

We finished our season in fine style with a 73–7 win over St Ives at *Cottenham Village College*. Conditions were perfect and the pitch looked well for the encounter. This left us sitting sixth from eight in the final league table.

The season was dogged with low numbers of players being available and, although only a couple of games were cried off, many games were played with fewer than 15 players, which made things very challenging.

However, we have been fortunate to have an influx of new young players which will hopefully reduce the extent of this problem next season.

Despite the relatively disappointing performance on the pitch, we did finish the season with a coveted piece of silverware. The *Whistler Trophy* is awarded by the *Cambridge University and District Rugby Referees Society* (CUDRRS) to the club that has provided the best support to it during the past year.

The award was presented to us by Maggie Alphonsi at the CUDRRS dinner in April.

Cottenham Renegades are taking touch rugby on tour again this year. The programme kicked off with three dates in Willingham starting on May 27.

Full details are available at: renegadesrugby.net/touch. Participation is open to anyone over the age of 16. Do come if you fancy a run around – a warm welcome awaits!

If you fancy trying your hand at rugby, Renegades are always on the lookout for new players. You may have played at school or with a club a while back and would like to get back into it. Or maybe you have never played but think you might like to try it out. Either way, you will get a great welcome if you come along to try out *Cottenham Renegades*.

We do take the game seriously but having fun is what the club is really about. If you are interested have a look at our website (renegadesrugby.net) and come along to watch a game and meet the players.

As I write, we are approaching the end of June and experiencing our second heatwave of the summer, with temperatures moving into the 30s. Phew!

After gaining promotion to *Cambridgeshire Cricket Association Senior 1* last year, our 1st XI are enjoying another excellent season and currently sit second in the league. This is only the third time in our history that we have reached this level and, after two brief stays in the past, we are determined to establish ourselves and finish strongly.

Our 2nd XI endured a difficult 2025, but under Paul Shadrack, have made a much brighter start this season and are currently in third place. We are keen to see this group continue moving up the league pyramid and hope to maintain that momentum.

Our junior section is also thriving. We are well under way with our *English Cricket Board All Stars* and *Dynamos* programmes, which provide excellent opportunities for boys and girls aged 5–8 (All Stars) and 8–11 (Dynamos).

Thanks are due to Shaun Pepper, who has led both courses, together with Sasha Vail, Matt Walkley and Will Charlton, and all those who have generously given their time to help.

Earlier in the spring we were uncertain how many junior teams we would be able to field, but we have ended up running three sides, more than we have managed for some time.

We now have teams competing at under-11, under-12 and under-15 level in the *Cambridgeshire Youth Cricket Association* leagues. We are hugely grateful to Jon Darby (under-11s) and Ed Craigen (under-12s), who have stepped forward to manage and coach these groups, supported by Duncan Robson, Natasha Rutterford and Stuart Cronin.

Friday evenings at the recreation ground are now bustling with young cricketers, all developing well and gaining valuable experience against strong opposition.

Our under-15 squad, which I coach, is also well into its summer season. As in recent years, we are competing in a challenging league against some extremely talented players.

Continued on p51

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

Continued from p49 We have a mixed-age squad, strengthened by several additional under-15s this summer, which has helped us remain competitive in all our matches.

As long as that continues, I am very happy. I would also like to thank Tom Chaplin, who has been an invaluable support with what is now quite a large squad.

I look forward to reporting back in the autumn with a full update on the season.

Contacts – Chairman: Alan Raven, 01954 250388; Secretary: Francois Rossouw, 07592 186044; Junior Teams Coordinator: Dave Partridge, 01954 203210.

Email: cottenhamcc@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.cottenham.play-cricket.com

Facebook: Cottenham Cricket Club

X: @CottenhamCrickt

Instagram: @cottenhamcricket

Dave Partridge

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS COTTENHAM

A different perspective on Cottenham – Cottenham's parish church, *All Saints*, is a landmark in every sense. The unmistakable profile of its tower is visible from afar in all directions. This architectural landmark is Cottenham's only Grade I listed building. It is also a historical landmark, dating back to the 13th century, the era of *Magna Carta* and the first stirrings of representative government in this country.

To see Cottenham from a different perspective, villagers and visitors are invited to join a guided tour of the tower in September.

As the tallest structure in the village by some margin, the tower offers unparalleled views over Cottenham.

We are holding an open day at the church on **Saturday 19 September**. In addition to tower tours, the open day will include displays explaining the church's fascinating history and place in village life. Our experts will be on hand to answer questions and provide insight into the church and its place in Cottenham's life over the centuries, including its historical connections to the 17th century diarist Samuel Pepys. You will also be able to inspect the new servery and conveniences installed over the summer.

Supporting the church – The *Friends of All Saints* is a charity dedicated to raising funds for the church's maintenance. It offers local people a chance to get involved in the life of our ancient church, whether or not they are churchgoers. The church belongs to the people of Cottenham – to the community as a whole.

You may feel that you are somehow missing a connection to the church and what it represents, but there is no need to miss out. You can join the friends for a modest annual subscription of £10, or simply attend one or more of our upcoming events, such as our popular family quiz, held twice a year in the church hall across the road from the church.

Coming events

Saturday 19 September, 10am–4pm: Open Day

Saturday 24 October, 7.30–10pm: Concert by local musical talents *Prime Brass* and *Cottenham Brass*

Saturday 14 November, doors open 6.30pm for 7–10pm: Family Quiz, *All Saints Church Hall*

Saturday 19 December, 7.30–10pm Concert by *New Cambridge Singers*.

All events will be held in the church except the quiz, which will be in the church hall opposite. Further events are already being planned for next year. Do any of these catch your eye? If so, a warm welcome awaits from the Friends.





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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

On Thursday 21 May, members of the *Cottenham Youth Council* and *Cottenham Parish Council*, as well as some fantastic volunteers from the local community including *Fen End Farm* and *Sustainable Cottenham*, gathered together to begin the initial build of a new sensory garden at *The Pond* site, where Broad Lane meets the High Street.

The work mainly focused on the initial infrastructure and groundwork. A wheelchair accessible pathway was created and 4 raised beds were built. This was followed up a few weeks later with the planting of some sensory specific plants including *Chocolate Cosmos, Lamb's Ear, Lemon Verbena* and *Achillea Red*. These plants are geared towards colour and scent as well as touch and sound.

Cottenham Youth Council welcomed our local MP, Charlotte Cane, for the planting day. She spoke to the group about why they joined the youth council and their plans for the sensory garden.

This project has been entirely led and developed by the youth council, which is made up of local young people aged between 11 and 14. They have been working hard to develop ideas for improving the village environment and biodiversity. Their intention is to create a community sensory planting space.

This is just phase 1 of the project, so look out for further details around phase 2 in due course.

Throughout the process of creating the sensory garden, we welcome the community to come and discuss the progress with the youth council as well as welcome any offers of support.

Village Hall, Recreation Ground, Lambs Lane, Cottenham, Cambridge CB24 8TA

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COTTENHAM GARDENERS CLUB

The club meets at the *Franklin Gardens Community Room* on the last Friday of the month. Refreshments are served at 7.30pm, followed by a talk at 7.45pm. The evening closes with a raffle of prizes kindly donated by members.

Guests and visitors are welcome to attend up to two meetings a year for a small fee of £4 for each talk, after which they are welcome to join as members. Annual membership is £25, and six-month membership from September to February is £13.

The Autumn Garden Programme of evening events is organised by member David Hills, who has arranged an interesting programme focusing on garden produce.

Friday 25 September – *Fruit Growing in Cottenham* by Ralph Carpenter. Local social historian Ralph will share his knowledge of fruit orchards in the early 19th century.



Friday 30 October *All About Herbs* by David Hinckley (see photo), founder of *GrowMad*. David was inspired by his father Ronnie to grow fresh produce and now runs a thriving business. His website, growmad.co.uk, is full of information and was created from the frustration of not being able to find all the required information in one place.

Friday 27 November – *Question Time/Quiz*, a fun exchange of gardening knowledge. A panel of four longstanding garden club members will give advice to attending members, who will bring queries about growing plants and vegetables, or general gardening issues. Visitors and guests are welcome to come along and join in.

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tracey.ashman@ntlworld.com

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FECA IN COTTENHAM

COTTENHAM SWIFT ACTION GROUP

In the summer of 2025, I posted on Cottenham Facebook asking if anyone in the village had swift boxes on their house. Several people responded including one couple in Lyles Road who have 6 swift bricks and 8 swift boxes. They have a camera in one box and kindly invited me round so that I could see the swift sitting on its eggs. One person said that although he didn't have any boxes he would like some. He now has four and has persuaded his next-door neighbour to have four. Swifts like to nest in close proximity of other swifts so I was pleased that these 8 boxes were also in Lyles Road.



Climate Conversations had Dick Newell of *Landbeach Action for Swifts* as a speaker in September 2025 and he suggested that Cottenham start an *Action for Swifts Group*. Through my Facebook post I had met Rachel who also has swift boxes and together we decided to do just that. We had our first meeting in February and 24 attended. The number swelled to 32 at our second meeting in March. Since then we have worked together promoting the plight of swifts, designing leaflets, setting up an email address, encouraging the installation of swift boxes, surveying to see if there any swifts in natural nesting sites, setting up a bank account so that we can apply for funding and donating funding for the hire of the hall. We are an informal self funded group, with no committee but pull together doing what we can. Through my original Facebook post I have met many new like minded people in the village.

There are now 35 boxes/bricks in Lyles Road and a total of 139 in the village with many more waiting to be installed.

Please come along and join us at our next meeting. We are a friendly bunch. You don't need to know anything about swifts.

Marilyn Peterkin

Cottenhamactionforswifts@gmail.com

COTTENHAM WATERCOLOUR GROUP

We are an enthusiastic group of 15 ladies and men who meet at *Cottenham Village Hall* on Mondays in term time.

We moved from the Village College in 2024 when they started to wind down their adult education classes.

We are now a self-run, not-for-profit group with a new tutor, Sunil Kalbandi (kalbandi.com).

Our previous tutor, David Hyde, who had moved with us from the College, retired earlier this year.

We are not able at present to offer places in the group at the moment, as we are fully subscribed with a waiting list.

If you would like to go on the waiting list please call Christine Copeland on 07837 642420.

We will update you towards the end of each term as to whether a place might be available for the beginning of the next term.

COTTENHAM CARE CAR

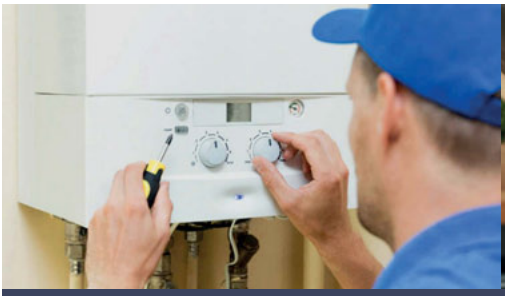
Cottenham Care Car provides volunteer transport for residents in Cottenham, Oakington, Westwick and Rampton. We are currently short of drivers and would welcome new volunteers. If you have a car and some spare time, please consider joining us to help local neighbours attend appointments and essential journeys.

Drivers receive 30p per mile from passengers, plus a further 15p per mile from the council every three months. There is no pressure to accept every request, so you can help when it is convenient for you.

Our busiest driver completes about 15 journeys a month; drivers with less availability complete around four. We also need part-time coordinators to cover when the full-time coordinator is on holiday or unavailable. Contact us for an informal chat about what is involved.

Contact – Coordinator Andrea
07866 838720 (Care Car phone)

Treasurer Pete: 07593 599321





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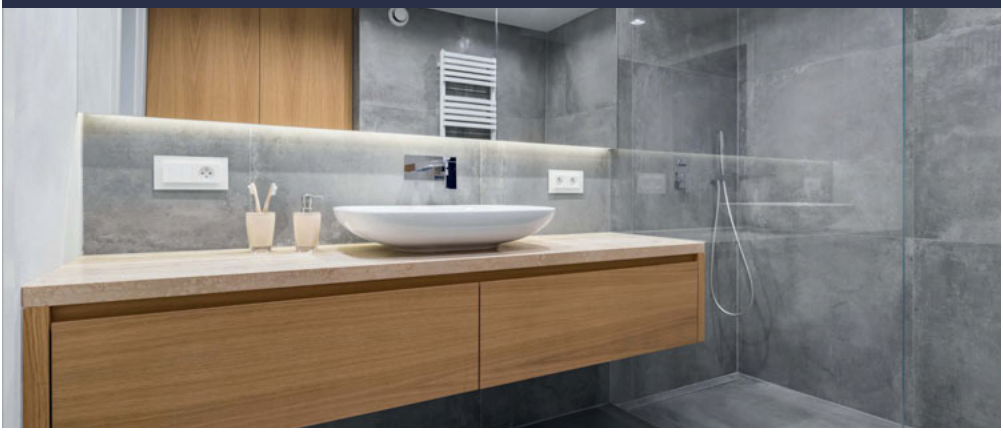
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FECA IN COTTENHAM



Coffee, Conversation and Community at our Thursday Hub

Looking for a friendly place to meet people, enjoy a good chat, and relax over excellent coffee and homemade cake? Then why not come along to *Thursday Hub* at *Cottenham Baptist Church*?

Thursday Hub takes place on the second Thursday of every month from 10.30am–12 noon, and is free to attend. Meeting dates for the rest of the year are Thursdays **13 August**, **10 September**, **8 October**, **12 November** and **10 December**.



The hub is a great place to meet up with neighbours and friends, to take a break from working from home, or to come and meet people if you are new to the village. Come on your own or with a friend, as a parent or carer, or simply if you would enjoy some company and conversation. There is plenty of cake to go round!



There is no set programme and no pressure to do anything in particular. Some people come simply to chat over coffee or tea, while others enjoy a puzzle or a game.

We are delighted to welcome people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, and we aim to make the space as accessible and welcoming as possible. Occasionally a well-behaved dog joins us too!

Partway through the morning there is a brief *Thought for the Day*. This is a two minute Christian reflection followed by a prayer

Most of all, *Thursday Hub* is about community – taking time to connect with others, share stories, enjoy laughter, and make new friends. If you have never been before, why not give it a try?

Enter via the passageway on the left-hand side of *Cottenham Baptist Church* on the High Street, between the fire station and the post office, to find us in the back room.

For more information, please contact cottenhambaptistpa@gmail.com.

COTTENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Thank you to everyone who supported our stall at the *Fen Edge Festival*. We had a wonderful day and it was lovely to see so many friendly faces.

Plans for our 100-year anniversary celebration at the November meeting are well under way. The committee is working hard behind the scenes to make it a special evening for everyone. We will be taking our summer break in August, so there will be no meeting this month.

Upcoming meetings

Wednesday 9 September 7.30–9.30pm – Diane Manion, *My Lourdes Experience as a Nurse*

Wednesday 14 October 7.30–9.30pm – *St John Ambulance*, *Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers*, which includes a chance to learn how to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

We meet at *Cottenham Village Hall* on the second Wednesday of each month 7.30–9.30pm. New members are always warmly welcomed; just come along to one of our meetings.

COTTENHAM VILLAGE SOCIETY

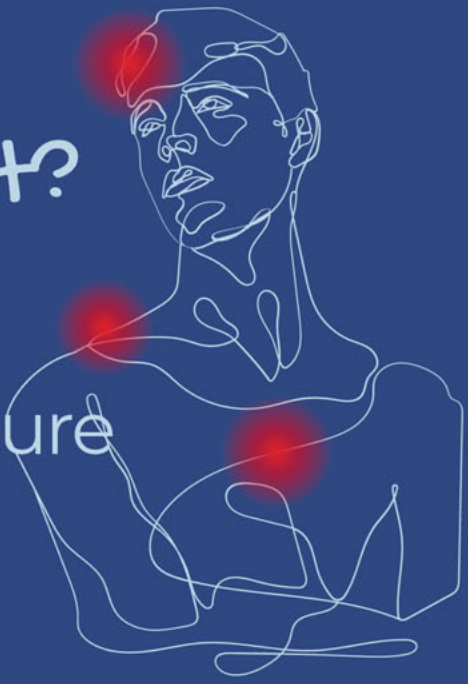
All our meetings take place at *Cottenham Village Hall* at 7.30pm.

Friday 11 September – *How to Look for One and Occasionally Spot One!* by Peter Pilbeam, followed by the AGM.

Friday 9 October – Introducing Our MP *by* Charlotte Cane.

Friday 13 November – *Never Give Up – a WWII RAF Diary by* Susan Rowe.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

For many years, the people of Cottenham have generously supported the annual *Operation Christmas Child* appeal, held each November. Organised by *Samaritan's Purse*, a Christian charity, the appeal sends gift-filled shoe-boxes to children in need around the world.

Samaritan's Purse supports people affected by conflict, poverty, famine, natural disasters and disease, providing emergency supplies, medical aid, shelter, tools, equipment and educational support to help families regain dignity and independence. Through *Operation Christmas Child*, shoe-boxes filled with gifts are distributed to children who may never have received a present before, demonstrating that they are not forgotten.

Saturday 21 November, 9.30am – Packing day at *Cottenham Village Hall*. Everyone is welcome to come along and support this worthwhile cause. Alternatively, from October, leaflets will be available from *Cottenham Community Centre* for those who would like to fill their own shoe-box, or knit warm mittens to include in a box.

Look out for posters around the village in the autumn for more information about how you can get involved, or contact Sue Hooks on 01954 250560.

Thank you for your continued support.

COTTENHAM COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

We meet regularly each month on our plot at the allotments on *Rampton Road*. We work collaboratively to grow crops, share produce and provide a welcoming space for anyone who would like to join us. It is a friendly group and no previous gardening experience is necessary, although it is always welcome.

We usually meet on the first Sunday and third Saturday of each month.

Follow our Facebook page for regular updates or email cottenham.allotment@gmail.com for more information.

Sustainable Cottenham

Sunday 13 September, 11.30am–4pm – FruitFest: Making the most of seasonal abundance, *Cottenham Village Hall*, Lambs Lane, organised by *Sustainable Cottenham* and *Cambridge Sustainable Food*.

FruitFest is an apple day with a difference – a celebration of apples and other seasonal produce, with a focus on reducing waste and redistributing surplus food to where it is most needed.

Activities include a cookery demonstration by popular chef *Waste Not Rowen*, who proved a hit at the *Fen Edge Festival*, along with apple tasting, apple juicing, a cake-making competition, a jam jar swap and children's crafts.

We would also like to hear from anyone who: expects to have surplus fruit or vegetables to donate; would like help collecting windfalls; or is interested in volunteering for a batch-cooking session, led by *Cambridge Sustainable Food*, using donated fruit to make jams or chutneys. No previous experience is needed. Contact Chris Ward at chris@sustainablecottenham.org.uk

A Look Back at Summer Festivals – In May, *Sustainable Cottenham* held a "flora and fauna" event at the *Old Recreation Ground*, Broad Lane, as part of the *Cambridge Nature Festival*. Volunteer experts discussed moths and small mammals recorded the previous night, and visitors enjoyed a quiz about the site's plant life.

At the *Fen Edge Festival*, we once again operated the reusable cup scheme for all festival bars and organised our first litter-pick race in the arena. Visitors sampled food prepared by *Waste Not Rowen*, examined pond creatures from the moat and viewed beautifully presented specimens of a fox and otter, while younger visitors decorated paper butterflies.

Scouts Support Cycle Paths – *Sustainable Cottenham* has organised many work parties to keep the Histon Road and Rampton Road cycle paths clear and safe, a task that requires considerable effort. We were delighted when 2nd *Cottenham Scouts* offered to take on this work. Their efforts have made a noticeable difference and we thank them for their support.

Events – Sunday 13 September, 11.30am–4pm FruitFest: Making the most of seasonal abundance, *Cottenham Village Hall*, Lambs Lane.

Saturday 7 November, 2pm – *Sustainable Cottenham* village litter pick. Meet at *Cottenham Village Hall*, Lambs Lane. Contact Peter at pgp1@cam.ac.uk or 01954 251544. Refreshments will be served from 4pm.

Saturday 14 November, 10am–2pm *Cottenham Repair Café*, *Cottenham Community Centre*. Follow @SusCottenham on Facebook for updates or contact Vicky at cottenhamrepaircafe@gmail.com or 07801 719823. Drop-ins are welcome, although there may be a longer wait.

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COTTENHAM TENNIS CLUB

Fen Edge Festival Open Day – this event was a wonderful way to build up to Wimbledon this year. Our open day was a great success, with around 15 children aged between 5 and 14 taking part in free coaching taster sessions, led by Joe Foulger from our coaching provider, *Full Swing Tennis*. Around 40 people came to have a go at tennis, keeping the courts busy from start to finish.

For the first time, we ran a *Pimm's* stall in conjunction with *Cottenham Jaguars Netball Club*. A huge thank you goes to Cilla Hughes (tennis) and Liz Dall'Aglio (netball) and the many volunteers who stepped in to chop, measure, and pour over the weekend. Thanks also to *Les Ward Greengrocers*, who generously supplied the strawberries, cucumber, and mint.

We also operated the crazy golf for the *Fen Edge Community Association* (FECA) on the Sunday – always a popular fixture. Our thanks go to Joe, all our volunteers, *Vivify* staff, FECA, and *Cottenham Village College* for making the weekend possible.

Summer League Matches – The 1st and 2nd men's teams are well underway with their summer league matches, and the mixed team are about to get started.

Coaching – Summer term and beyond. Weekly coaching (juniors and adults, all abilities) will start in early September at *Cottenham Tennis Club*, *Cottenham Village College*. Our children's groups remain very popular and it would be wonderful to see more adults joining us – we have sessions for all abilities, whether you are a complete beginner or a more experienced player.

Summer Holiday Camps – We are delighted to confirm that *Full Swing Tennis* will be running summer holiday camps at *Cottenham Tennis Club, Cottenham Village College*, this August from **Monday 3 August** to **Thursday 6 August**. Times: 9am–12pm for ages 6–9 and 1pm–4pm for ages 10–16.

Booking details are available online. Visit our holiday camps booking page or keep an eye on the Cottenham Tennis Facebook page for updates.

Tennis Is for Everyone! – Tennis is a sport for all the family and is played all year round. Whether you are a complete beginner or a seasoned player, there is a session for you.

Full details of all our coaching and membership options can be found on our website, and to book holiday camps visit: fullswingtennis.co.uk/cottenham-holiday-camps-booking



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COTTENHAM DISSENTERS' CEMETERY

For many years, members of Cottenham's nonconformist churches longed for their own burial ground, free from the influence of the established Church. In 1845, a board of trustees purchased an acre of land on Lambs Lane for £280 using funds raised through public subscriptions from local nonconformist congregations.

The *Dissenters' Cemetery* was formally opened on 12 June 1845, with the local press reporting that an "assemblage of 500 or 600 persons" attended the ceremony. The first burial was that of three-year-old Ann Norman, daughter of Richard and Molly Norman of *Queenholme Farm*. Since then, the cemetery has remained a place of rest and remembrance for the local community, with around 4,000 names recorded in the burial register.



Today, the cemetery is maintained by volunteer trustees operating as a registered *Charitable Incorporated Organisation*, formed in 2015, dedicated to preserving the grounds and ensuring it remains a peaceful resting place for all in Cottenham. The trustees meet regularly to oversee the ongoing care and maintenance of the cemetery, and respond to general enquiries relating to funeral arrangements and memorials.

In 1913, the cemetery was enlarged by a further quarter of an acre. More recently, it was extended again on the western side to create a new lawn cemetery with additional space for burials and the interment of ashes. New entrance gates, commissioned from blacksmith Mike Overall, have also been installed and designed to maintain continuity between the old and new areas.



We are also committed to preserving and promoting the cemetery's heritage. We recently enjoyed hosting a stand at the *Fen Edge Festival*, featuring a *Find a Grave* lookup service and our funeral bier on display, attracting many visitors with an interest in local history and family connections.



Volunteering – Volunteer clear-up sessions take place on the third Saturday of each month and new volunteers are always welcome. These sessions provide an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, meet others and help care for this valued community space. To find out more or sign up, visit www.cottenhamcemetery.co.uk/volunteer

Heritage Open Day – Saturday 19 September Visitors can discover the stories of those laid to rest in the cemetery, explore the meanings behind Victorian grave symbols and see the historic funeral bier on display. Further details are available at www.cottenhamcemetery.co.uk/heritageday

Remembrance Week – In November, war graves are marked to help visitors identify and honour those who served and gave their lives during wartime. More information can be found at www.cottenhamcemetery.co.uk/wargraves.pdf



For general enquiries or to find out more about volunteering, email info@cottenhamcemetery.co.uk or call 07813 732244.

Website: www.cottenhamcemetery.co.uk

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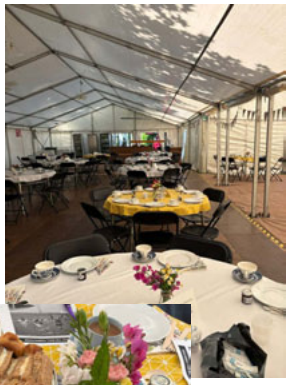
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FECA IN COTTENHAM

THE COTTENHAM AND RAMPTON LUNCH AND SOCIAL CLUB



We serve a home cooked lunch every Tuesday at the *Coolidge Gardens Community Room* and each week members can catch up with a cup of tea or coffee in the morning, along with an activity such as bingo or an educational talk.

We have steady numbers (around 30 people), with a waiting list.

We have just held *Tea on the Green* (see photo of sumptuous spread) during the *Fen Edge Festival* which was a great success and are looking forward (at the time of writing) to a visit from *Singing for Fun*, singing group on Tuesday 30 June.



We will be taking another trip on *River Ouse* with the *Ladybird Boat Trust* on **Friday 7 August**.

The club will not be running during the Tuesdays of August.

On **Sunday 11 October** the club will be celebrating the fact that it has been in operation since 1986. We plan to hold an event at *Cottenham Village Hall* to mark the occasion.

On **Tuesday 3 November** we will be holding our AGM

The *Cottenham and Rampton Lunch and Social Club* is for local independent people of pensionable age. We are fortunate to have our minibus which collects members and brings them home afterwards. We also have a happy team of volunteers who enjoy being at the club and meeting with members every week.

You can see some photos of the meals we prepare on our website: www.cottenhamandramptonlunchclub.org

Please contact our chair Alice Gough on 07771 627791 or chair@cottenhamandramptonlunchclub.org if you would like to know more about becoming a member or a volunteer.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, COTTENHAM

New Defibrillator Installation

We are delighted to announce the installation of a new public-access defibrillator outside the church hall.

This vital piece of life-saving equipment is now available to help treat members of our community in the event of a cardiac arrest by contacting the ambulance service. Having a defibrillator readily accessible can significantly increase the chances of survival when every second counts, and we are proud to be able to provide this important resource.

This project would not have been possible without the generosity and support of the many individuals, local businesses, and organisations who contributed financially towards its purchase and installation. Your donations and commitment to the well-being of our community have made this achievement possible.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who supported the fundraising effort especially *Cottenham Parish Council* and the *Fen Edge Community Association*. Your kindness and community spirit have helped create a lasting asset that could one day save a life.

COTTENHAM BOWLS CLUB

Playing in the sun!

We are well into the outdoor bowls season and enjoying some warm, sunny weather.

Alongside our bowling activities, we continue to hold social events at the club. On 29 March we held our presentation dinner, where 13 trophies and runner-up certificates were awarded.

Short mat bowls – October marks the start of our short mat season, played in the clubhouse throughout the winter. It is a great way to spend an afternoon, combining gentle exercise, good company and a cup of tea with a biscuit or two. For more information, please contact our Chairman.

Cottenham Bowls Club is a friendly club with members from Cottenham and the surrounding villages, and new members are always welcome.

Contact: Malcolm Creek, Chairman, 01223 234787

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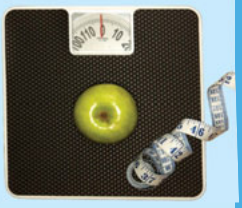


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