

December 2020 - January 2021

www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk

Happy Christmas from LFCA



Let's be honest... 2020 has been an abysmal year, so let's try to take some comfort where we can.

Recent news about vaccines mean there's finally an emerging roadmap back to normality. While it's no comfort for people who have caught the virus, infection rates have remained low in Huntingdonshire, thanks to a large extent to the Herculean efforts we have all made to keep each other safe.

The rules around Christmas bubbles are a cause for celebration for many of us. However, for every reunited family, there will be others without a bubble to join, and people who will have to choose which loved ones to see and which they won't. The virus won't be taking a break, and older and medically vulnerable people are still at risk.

All we can ask is that you, the people of Love's Farm, look out for each other — and particularly those who live alone or may need a bit of practical or emotional support over Christmas. It's a big ask but we know you're good for it.

If anyone is not sure where to turn

for help, we're delighted that St Neots Community Support is here for us. This wonderful group of volunteers is supporting people with shopping, prescriptions, post and friendly calls — see opposite for details.

If in doubt, please get in touch with LFCA at help@ourlovesfarm.co.uk or 01480 589059 and we'll do what we can. Here's to an infinitely better 2021!

Community Christmas Carols

| Monday 21 December, 6:30/7:30pm

Government guidelines at the time allowing, we plan to host our annual Christmas Carols this year on Monday 21 December. We'll meet in two locations: first at Station Square at 6:30pm where we will stand with our household or bubble in an allocated spot 2m from the next spot. West End musical director Chris Hatt will accompany us as we sing our way through some Christmas carols and songs. Our second venue will be at the green space at the top of Hogsden Leys (known as the Village Green). Once again we'll have household spots marked out on the grass at 2m intervals and begin singing at 7:30pm. Come with your best singing voices, a light or lantern, liquid refreshment of your choice and mince pies or other festive nibbles, a bell if you can lay your hands on one and a brolly (but surely it won't rain).

There'll be other opportunities to mark Christmas with your community

so watch out for announcements via facebook.com/ourlovesfarm and facebook.com/lovesfarmchaplain — including a community Christmas lunch at Love's Farm House on Christmas Day (rules permitting). Contact Helene on 07938 803501 if that is something that would interest you as numbers will be limited.

Messy Church

The Messy Church team are planning a Messy Christmas Church set of activities to help tell the Christmas Story through a range of crafts, songs and film clips. We have come up with a plan that we hope will suit everyone whilst enabling us to adhere to government guidelines. There will be three ways that you can take part.

Come along to Love's Farm House as a household (or bubble) and be quided through the prepared crafts to hear the story and nibble some snacks. Love's Farm House has a Covid-safe capacity of 30 people so this will be a ticketed event. Tickets will be free but need to be booked with Helene — message her with your exact numbers on 07938 803501 to secure your spot. Please only chose this option if you know you can make the date and time — Tuesday 22 December at 2:30pm — and are confident that you can work with your children on the crafts and activities.

The second option will be a Messy Christmas Church session on Zoom on Monday 21 December at 10:30am. Join in using a Messy Church



ST NEOTS COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS HERE TO HELP YOU

Whether you, or someone you know, is shielding because of COVID-19 or just can't get out and about, call **SNCS**. We're ready to help and if we can't, we'll be able to put you in touch with someone who can.

CALL US ON 0333 3355 344

Takeaway bag. The third option is simply to request a Messy Church Takeaway for you to use at a time that suits you. The bag will include everything you need for the crafts, as well as a link to the Pinterest Board and Facebook video.

Love's Farm Directory

At Love's Farm News we try to bring you all the key information for our community on Love's Farm, but we can't cover everything in every issue. That's why our next issue will be a directory of activities, groups, services and other resources.

We reckon we're in touch with most of these groups already, but there are bound to be a few that we might miss. So, if you know of a community activity that might be off our radar, please get in touch to let us know.

The criteria are pretty simple:

- The group, activity or service needs to be based on or near Love's Farm, and
- It must have a community angle

 supporting people or bringing them together.

All non-profit groups and some businesses will be eligible, such as yoga classes or baby groups. We don't plan to list businesses that serve individual customers but they are welcome to advertise in the directory for a small fee. Please get in touch at ben.pitt@ourlovesfarm.co.uk if you'd like to be included.



Love's Farm Community Garden

The community garden space at 76 Stone Hill is a public space so please do feel free to use it to wander, sit, check out the fish or the Nativity-themed additions which will be making their appearance as Christmas approaches.

The community garden space at Love's Farm House has suffered a bit as a consequence of the Covidimposed closures but Phyllis and Jessica have tidied and cleared it of weeds, hoping that we'll all get to enjoy it again in 2021!

SMART Day

| Saturday 9 January, 11am and 2pm

Our next SMART community litter pick day will be on 9 January 2021, meeting at 11am and/or 2pm at the Pirate Ship. Litter pickers and bags will be ready for your household to join other volunteers to help clear up our shared spaces and green places. Please join us if you can.

Love's Farm Community Money Advice

As Christmas approaches, are you worried about your family finances? Are you struggling with debt or having trouble managing your money? Love's Farm Community Money Advice can help.

We give free, confidential advice on

how to manage your budget and how to tackle your debt. We can also help you speak with creditors, bailiffs and landlords.

We are a small team of trained volunteers, led by a Chartered Accountant and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Our service is impartial, confidential, and completely free.

Contact us for an appointment on moneyadvice@lovesfarmchurch.com or 01480 260234. Then we can help you via Zoom, telephone or in person (government guidelines permitting).

Alpha Online

Love's Farm Church (hosts of Breakfast and Messy Church) are running another Alpha online course in the New Year. Alpha Online part 1 will explore faith, life and purpose, with interviews and input from a range of people across all spheres of life. Contact Helene for more info or watch out for details at facebook .com/lovesfarmchaplain.

News from the Farm House

We are working hard to make sure that Love's Farm House is a Covid-safe environment, and we would like to thank everyone for being so respectful of the new procedures we have put in place.

As we reopen after lockdown, we will ensure that we do so safely and in accordance with all of the govern-

ment guidance. Safety procedures include additional cleaning, one-way systems, hand sanitiser points, increased ventilation and number limits. It is a legal requirement to wear a face covering in community centres, so please don't forget your mask.

The government guidance changes frequently, which can have a big impact on the activities that we are able to run in the building. Please visit www.lovesfarmhouse.com/whats-on for the most recent updates. We know that the activities at Love's Farm House are hugely important to the physical health, mental health and well-being of our community. We are absolutely committed to continuing to run these, as long as we can do so safely, while also respecting the measures the government requires us to put in place to help control the spread of Covid-19.

What's New at Love's Farm House

Tai Chi

| Thursdays 1pm-2pm, £6 per class

Tai chi for mind and body, self-defence and healing. Taught by Master Savannah, who has 23 years' experience as a Tai Chi instructor, this class is fun, relaxing and informative.

Tai chi is a low-impact martial art, where you will learn self defence without the use of force. It is suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

Tai chi has numerous health bene-

fits and helps with balance, posture, flexibility and coordination. You will learn how to use tai chi to help relieve headaches, migraines, toothache and other pain in your body. Tai chi can also help with numerous other physical and mental health issues as well as sleep problems.

Call Master Savannah on 07309 645743 for more information, or just turn up on the day.

Tiny Talk Baby Signing

| Wednesdays 11am-12noon, | birth to 2 years, £6.50 per session

Tiny Talk Baby Signing classes are fun, interactive and designed to teach you and your baby how to communicate with each other before little ones can talk. The sessions introduce British Sign Language (BSL) signs through singing popular nursery rhymes and songs. Each week follows a theme, which could be anything from "the family" to "going to the farm". Classes incorporate sensory activities to encourage handeye coordination and fine motor skills.

Classes must be booked in advance. For more information or to book your space contact Claire at clairep@tinytalk.co.uk or visit www.tinytalk.co.uk/clairep.

Pregnancy Pilates

Sundays 6.40-7.40pm, £45 for a 6-week block

Pregnancy Pilates aims to reduce aches and pains and help to

strengthen and lengthen the muscles to aid pregnancy, childbirth and beyond. The class consists of 45 minutes of pregnancy Pilates and 15 minutes focusing on specific breathing techniques and all-important relaxation.

The class is suitable from 12 weeks pregnant and can be continued up until birth. The class is adapted to suit all levels and abilities. It also gives you the opportunity to meet other mums-to-be in a safe and friendly environment.

For more information and to book, visit www.njfitnessandmassage.com or contact Nicola on njfitnessandmassage@outlook.com.

Wintringham Update

It has been a busy few weeks for the Project Team. After battling with all of the delays and complexities of Covid, we passed two major milestones: the opening of the new school and first residents moving in.

We are so grateful for everyone's patience during the roadworks that meant we could get the bus stops and toucan crossings in, and open up Nuffield Road and the school plaza in time for 2 November for the first day of Wintringham Primary Academy. It has been great to see the school building come to life. Tracy, Kate and the Diamond Learning Team have been amazing at making sure the children have all they need in place. We are all looking forward to watching the school community grow as



The Civic Square and Wintringham Primary School

more residents move in and join.

Lots of work has been put in to finishing the first two play areas along our middle entrance — Bret Road and to finish the landscaping and cycle- and walk-way along Cambridge Road. With our first families moved in and a few more joining us before Christmas, we would like to thank all the shops, groups and activities on Love's Farm who have helped us pull together a Welcome Pack for residents with all the information they need to set down roots in the local area. We will be sharing this pack with the Community Association and keeping people updated as new facilities and amenities come forward.

With CALA Homes and Morris
Homes working away on site, we will
soon be welcoming Durkan Homes to
build homes north of the school.
Meanwhile we are working to bring
forward plans for the first shop, café
and business space that will sit
around a public square to the west of
the school. We will keep you posted
on future plans, and keep updating
our maps so that new residents know
how to get about and our neighbours

can enjoy the new facilities.

With work now finished on the Construction Access on the A428, we will soon be closing the construction access on Cambridge Road and will at last be able to landscape and complete that part of the landscape scheme. Again, we are grateful for everyone's patience while that work has been going on. If you have any questions about the work or would like to speak to the team, please get in touch with me on 01480 413141 or Rbritton@urbanandcivic.com.

Everyone in the project team, our housebuilders and contractors would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2021.

Rebecca Britton



Introducing Camilla McCormick

Camilla has joined bpha as the Housing Officer for Love's Farm. We invited her to

introduce herself.

Tell us a little bit about your role at bpha.

My name is Camilla McCormick and I have worked at bpha for six years. I have worked in different areas of the organisation including Community Engagement, where I spent time at Love's Farm consulting with our residents. I then went on to spend nearly two years working for our Retirement Living team, visiting and supporting our older residents living in Bedford. I have been the Love's Farm Housing Officer since October.

What do you enjoy about being a Housing Officer?

I'm a people person and love the fact that my days are all about working with and communicating with people. No day is ever the same and I really enjoy being out and about meeting residents and members of the community. I find it rewarding when I feel that I have made a difference to someone's situation and take pride in what I do.

What are you enjoying most about your role at Love's Farm?

Starting in a new area during a global pandemic has certainly had its challenges and I haven't been able to get out and about as much as I'd like. That said, I have been able to walk around Love's Farm with Kathryn Beck, our Community Engagement Officer, and familiarise myself with the area. My role so far has been mostly desk-based but I look forward to spending much more time in the community, and plan to restart the regular drop-in sessions at Love's Farm House as soon as possible.

How should people get in touch?

Because of the current Covid-19 restrictions the best way to get in touch is by calling the bpha Customer Service team on 0330 100 0272 or by emailing info@bpha.org.uk.

Reflecting on the Year

Residents of Love's Farm gathered for a special Zoom call for the Annual General Meeting of Love's Farm Community Association (LFCA) — to hear all about what we've been involved in over the past year, and to elect the officers for the coming year.

Normally, our annual meeting is a great community gathering. In past years we have eaten fish & chips while enjoying a quiz and a drink from the bar, and handed out awards to our community heroes. This wasn't possible this year and so we had to settle for Zoom, but we still had a great turnout. Marcus Pickering, chairperson of the Association, reflected on the fabulous community response to Covid-19 and the initiatives that sprung from it — the Little Lockdown Library, the rock snake (which made BBC News) fairies in the woods, as well as numerous volunteers for our community help scheme. We also heard about the growing Neighbourhood Watch scheme on Love's Farm and the new community garden.

We elected our officers for the coming year, with Marcus Pickering as Chairperson, Rebecca Fowler as Secretary and Cameron Paul as Treasurer all continuing their roles. After eight years as chair, Marcus will be stepping down at the next annual meeting and so we will be looking for someone else to take up the reins in the coming year. If you are a Love's



A bumper crop of quince fruit

Farm resident and you'd like to consider this, or get involved in any other way, we'd love to hear from you at info@ourlovesfarm.co.uk.

Love's Farm Out of Doors

In the summer I found a source of really interesting trees at very reasonable prices so, thinking in terms of the ephemeral holiday that I couldn't take and the lifetime of a tree, I bought some and, with permission of HDC, have added to the Love's Farm species list. Sparked by comments of passers-by I got to thinking of native, alien and invasive species.

The media and some specialist groups get very pedantic about native species, but in fact the definition is "any plant species the came to Britain (or any specific area) without the help of man". On that basis our flora would be very limited, consisting mainly of mosses, alpines, birch and alder etc, which survived the last Ice Age, and continental species that colonised the south of England before the land-



Stone Hill on fire with autumn colours

bridge was flooded. We couldn't go back to that even if we wanted to because of the gradual change to our climate.

So we come to alien species — everything but the above. Isn't the quintessential idea of an English village green, a pub, seen through spreading horse chestnut trees? They arrived from Greece in 1616! The Romans brought wheat and grapes in the early years AD. Man has been adding to the list ever since, either to improve or vary his foodstuff or just for beautification of his environment.

In the 18th and 19th centuries large landowners sponsored expeditions to exotic places solely to bring back new plants. Some of the Stately Homes had special glass houses producing supplies of pineapples for their guests. The National Trust and English Heritage parks are what they are because of these plant hunters.

Now to invasive species; these are plants that have been introduced intentionally or accidentally and have run amok. This area is highly subjective, for what is one person's out-of-

hand eyesore is another's beautiful vista. No-one is arguing that Japanese knotweed, which can push its roots under concrete and heave it is anything other than a dangerous pest in any area with buildings, but when it comes to pink balsam which we admire along river banks or, more recently, "escaped", skunk cabbage, a splendid golden Arum-type lily which again floats its seeds down water courses usually, from exotic gardens, I think the jury is out. I suppose this group could also include some agricultural weeds. A weed is simply a plant that is in the wrong place! Hence farmers don't want fat hen or poppies in their cornfields because the weeds compete for nutrients or contaminate the harvested seed.

So what about Love's Farm? No invasives! Though self-sown yellow thistle, cornus and willow seedlings could be heading that way. The most exotic is a Californian redwood, which could grow from its present 1.8m to the biggest temperate tree in the world. The others were berry trees just sightly different from those we already have.

It has been a wonderful fruit and berry season so our birds and small creatures should have food for the winter, though I am sure they will appreciate garden feeders too. There is likely to be some cutting back of our shrubs and willows this winter. Don't panic — it really is normal and necessary management.

Phyllis Hooper

Get In Touch

Love's Farm News

Editor: Ben Pitt ben.pitt@ourlovesfarm.co.uk Advertising Equiries: Jenny Bishop 01480 262626 jenny@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk

Love's Farm Community Association (LFCA)

Chair: Marcus Pickering marcus. pickerina@ourlovesfarm.co.uk www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk



Ourlovesfarm

Love's Farm House

Bookings and general enquiries (Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm): Jenny 01480 262626,

iennv@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk

Chair of trustees:

Raymon Gompelman ravmon@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk www.lovesfarmhouse.com



If lovesfarmhouse

St Neots Community Support

Help with shopping and other tasks for people who are isolating due to COVID-19 Call 0333 3355 344 (8am-8pm) or email info@sncs.org.uk

Town Councillors

Stephen Ferguson, stephen. ferguson@stneots-tc.gov.uk Caroline Gregson, caroline.gregson @stneots-tc.gov.uk Rob Simonis robert.simonis@stneots-tc.gov.uk Ben Pitt, ben.pitt@stneots-tc.gov.uk

District Councillors

David Wells, 01480 211629, davidjwells@hotmail.co.uk Nik Johnson, 07957 210183, nikmagpiejohnson@btinternet.com

County Councillor

Julie Wisson, 07725 791459. iulie.wisson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Financial Difficulties

Love's Farm Community Money Advice: www.lovesfarmchurch.com/ moneyadvice 01480 260234, moneyadvice@lovesfarmchurch.com

Community Chaplain, Breakfast Church

Helene Tame, 07938 803501 community.chaplain@ vahoo.co.uk

BPHA

Contact Customer Services on 0330 100 0272 ww.bpha.org.uk

Hartbeeps

Ages: 0 to 4. £7 per child. Contact Sarah on 07872 331260 sarah.armstrong@hartbeeps.com. www.hartbeeps.com

Inspirations Dance Academy

5-14 Years. Contact office@inspirations.dance or www.facebook.com/ Inspirationsdancecambourne.

Train with Sophia Fitness Class

£5 per session / £18 for four-week block. Contact Sophia via www.facebook.com/ TrainwithSophiaA.

Zumba, Fitness Pilates and Fit Mums

£6 per class or £30 for a block of six. Contact Nicola at nifitness andmassage@outlook.com

Tiny Talk

Ages birth to 2 years, £6.50 per session, contact Claire on clairep@tinytalk.co.uk

Narcotics Anonymous

https://ukna.org or call the helpline on 0300 999 1212

Baby Sensory

Birth to 5 years, £70 for 10 classes. beds@babvsensorv.co.uk 07538 502587, www.babysensory.com

Pilates

£78 for 12 classes. Contact. Laura on 07900 242904 or laura@laurasfitness.co.uk

Everyone Health

Call 03330 050093 for appointments, or visit www. everyonehealth.co.uk/cambs

St Neots Tang Soo Do **Karate Club**

Ages: 6 to adult, £4,50 per person / £9 per family. Contact Paul on 07790 217170

FitSteps

£7 per single session / £6 per block booked session. Contact Lynne on fitstepsstneots@amail.com or visit www.facebook.com/fitstepsstneots.

Tai Chi

£6 per class, contact Master Savannah on 07309 645743

Dewey School of Dance

Ages: 5-12, £6 per session. Contact Megan on 07801982389

Love's Farm Rainbows, **Brownies & Guides**

quides@lovesfarmquiding.org.uk, www.girlguiding.org.uk

Mama Baby Bliss Baby Yoga

Ages 2 - 12 months. Contact joanna.miller@mamababybliss.com call 07904 374212 or visit www.mamababybliss.com/classes/ book-a-class/biggleswade-st-neots.

Junior Youth Club

School Years 3 to 6. Contact Helene on 07938 803501, community.chaplain@yahoo.co.uk

Streetdance

Various classes for ages 4+, £4 to £5.50 per class. Contact Katy on 07500 875060, www. katvnorthdanceacademv.com

Confident Birth Hypnobirthing

Free Visit www.vourconfidentbirth.co.uk.

Love's Farm Ladies (WI)

lovesfarmladieswi@gmail.com

Love's Farm Runners

Visit www.facebook.com/ groups/lovesfarmrunners

2nd St Neots Beavers. **Cubs and Scouts**

tinyurl.com/lovesfarmcubs

Love's	What's On December 2020					
Farm	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Love's Farm Community Association	All sessions are subject to change due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Visit www.lovesfarmh ouse.com for our most up-to-date schedule.	Fit Mum 9.35 - 10.20am Tiny Talk 11am - 12noon FitSteps 2pm Karate 5.30pm - 7pm FitSteps 7.15pm, 8.15pm Love's Farm House AGM 7.15pm via Zoom. Email jenny@lovesfar mhouse.co.uk for details.	* Tai Chi 1pm - 2pm Contemporary Dance 3.45pm, 4.35pm Brownies 6 - 7.30pm Guides 7.30 - 9pm	Baby Yoga 9.45am, 11am Youth Club 5pm, 6.15pm	Street Dance 9.30am, 10.15am, 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm	Confident Birth Hypnobirthing 10.35 - 11.30am Pregnancy Pilates 6.40 - 7.40pm
Hartbeeps 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.40pm, 1.40pm, 2.40pm Acro Dance 4 - 6pm Fitness Class 6.10 - 6.55pm Zumba 7 - 7.45pm Fitness Pilates 8 - 9pm	Baby Sensory 10am, 11.15am, 12.30pm Pilates 6pm, 7pm, 8pm Love's Farm Runners 8pm @ Station Sq	Everyone Health 9.30am - 1.30pm Fit Mum 9.35 - 10.20am Tiny Talk 11am - 12noon FitSteps 2pm Karate 5.30pm - 7pm FitSteps 7.15pm, 8.15pm	* Tai Chi 1pm - 2pm Contemporary Dance 3.45pm, 4.35pm Brownies 6 - 7.30pm Guides 7.30 - 9pm	Baby Yoga 9.45am, 11am Youth Club 5pm, 6.15pm	Street Dance 9.30am, 10.15am, 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm	Breakfast Church 9.30am, 10.45am Pregnancy Pilates 6.40 - 7.40pm
Hartbeeps 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.40pm, 1.40pm, 2.40pm Acro Dance 4 - 6pm Fitness Class 6.10 - 6.55pm Zumba 7 - 7.45pm Fitness Pilates 8 - 9pm	Baby Sensory 10am, 11.15am, 12.30pm Pilates 6pm, 7pm, 8pm Love's Farm Runners 8pm @ Station Sq	Everyone Health 9.30am - 1.30pm Fit Mum 9.35 - 10.20am Karate 5.30 - 7pm	* Tai Chi 1pm - 2pm Contemporary Dance 3.45pm, 4.35pm Brownies 6 - 7.30pm Guides 7.30 - 9pm	Youth Club 5pm, 6.15pm Love's Farm Book Club 7.45pm via Zoom	Street Dance 9.30am, 10.15am, 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm	Breakfast Church 9.30am, 10.45am Festive Frozen Party (sold out) 1pm - 2.30pm & 3.30pm - 5pm Pregnancy Pilates 6.40 - 7.40pm
Hartbeeps Times as above	Messy Church 2.30pm - 4pm Pilates 6pm, 7pm, 8pm	23	24	25	26	27

Events are at Love's Farm House foyer, hall or meeting room, or out and about. Events with a * mean just turn up. For others, please book in advance. Visit www.lovesfarmhouse.co.uk or call 01480 262626 for more information.