

Love's Farm News

October - November 2023

www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk

The Guerrilla Gardener Hangs Up Her Trowel



Phyllis Hooper indulging in a spot of renegade tree planting on Love's Farm

Phyllis Hooper, one of our longest-serving, most dedicated LFCA volunteers, is moving away from St Neots.

It's almost impossible to imagine Love's Farm without Phyllis. She has faithfully and tirelessly contributed to the fabric of our community in countless ways.

As our pink, hi-vis vested 'Gorilla Gardener' (a spelling slip on my part when I supplied her with the hi-vis as a birthday gift after overhearing her say she'd always wanted a pink hi-vis), Phyllis has trimmed whiskered trees, planted numerous others and cultivated small areas across the development, like the 'Farm Gate' bed close to the balancing area between Fox Brook and Hull Way.

She has tended memorial trees and planters and cared for shared garden and green spaces at Love's Farm House, Auntie's Woods and across the entire development (every nook and cranny of it). She has picked and sorted more litter than the rest of us put together, pruned, shaped, watered and persevered with trees and shrubs when everyone else's

enthusiasm waned beyond its first flush.

Perhaps most noticeably, she has faithfully written, what for many is their favourite newsletter section, 'Love's Farm Outdoors' — which will lie dormant until our next 'eco woo-er and warrior' takes up their pen (maybe you, or a young person in your house or class?)

Phyllis has been an absolute stalwart in so very many ways within the community but especially in regard to all things alive and green. In addition she has been the most faithful of neighbours and a valued friend, including to those that others prefer to just keep as an acquaintance. That's because Phyllis cares deeply about people and plants and communities. We will miss Phyllis greatly, and although you may not yet realise it, you will too, unless a small army of people step up to fill her boots and take on her mantle and hi-vis

Go well dear Phyllis, thank you for absolutely everything — and please, do send us an occasional guest entry piece for the newsletter.

Helene Tame

Chocolate Bingo

Thursday 26 October, 6-8:30pm Love's Farm House

Join Emma for the ever-popular Chocolate Bingo, playing for yummy chocolate prizes rather than cash.



Get to the Farm House in good time for the ever-popular Chocolate Bingo on 26 October

Doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 6.30pm. We'll play at least 10 games, with lots of tweaks that make it a true Love's Farm special.

The family-friendly fun costs just £1 per person. If you want to play with more books that's fine and £1 for every additional book.

There is no bar so bring your own snacks and drinks. Don't forget your pens and change.

LFCA and Love's Farm House AGMs

| Friday 10 November, 7:45pm | Love's Farm House

Bring your neighbours along with you to our community AGMs this November. Love's Farm House Trustees and Love's Farm Community Association (LFCA) members will be celebrating our many successes over the past year and discussing our future projects. All Love's Farm residents are warmly welcomed, from veteran volunteers to those who would like to share new ideas for our community. The cash bar will be open so you can enjoy the rest of the evening with your neighbours.

Paxton Pits Adventure

Thanks to everyone who joined our Love's Farm Community Association adventure to Paxton Pits Nature Reserve. This August, local families rode the TING bus to the Wildlife Trust's Education Centre, where we had fun learning about nature before tucking into packed lunches. We then had the afternoon to explore the bird hides and trails around the nature reserve, before riding the TING home.



LFCA booked the TING bus to transport Love's Farm residents to Paxton Pits

The TING is a door-to-door bus service that operates on demand in our part of Huntingdonshire. Each journey costs £2 for adults and £1 for under



Visiting the Education Centre at Paxton Pits

19s. You can book your journey by ringing 0115 777 3187 or downloading the "Vectare DRT" app. You can also request a vehicle suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and shopping trolleys.

Our adventure was funded through HDC's Health Inequalities Project. Email chair@ourlovesfarm.co.uk if you would like to help organise our next adventure.

New Timetable for the Number 18 Bus

There's a new timetable for the number 18 Bus (Whippet) and it's good news for Cambridge and Cambourne commuters. You can now depart from Love's Farm — arriving in Cambourne, Comberton and Cambridge before 9am on weekdays. This change is all down to the tireless campaigning of Love's Farm resident Stephen Hinchley.

See the new timetable at www.tinyurl.com/number18bus

What's New at Love's Farm House

Love's Farm House is delighted to welcome two new classes for children and young people this autumn.

Moo Music

| Tuesdays: 9.45am & 10.45am | £9 per session / £45 for 6 weeks

Moo Music brings you interactive music and mooooovement sessions

for you and your little ones. Sing, dance, play and have imaginative fun with Farmer Julia, Maggie Moo and their farmyard friends. With over 150 original Moo Music songs, who knew learning could be so much fun?

Moo Music offers two classes — Mixed Moo is at 9.45am and children ages 0-5 years are all welcome. Baby Moo is a gentler class at 10.45am for babies from birth to crawling, where your little one can explore different movements and sensations through music, while trying new activities and physical challenges which are designed to suit their age and stage of development.

Contact Julia on julia@moo-music .co.uk if you have any questions, or visit www.moo-music.co.uk/areas/stneotsandhuntingdon to book.

Broadway Boogie Kids

Tuesdays, 5.10pm. £6 per class (block booking discounts available)

Our adult Broadway Boogie class is so successful that we thought it's only fair to let the kids have a go. Broadway Boogie Kids is a fun, energetic dance fitness class for 4-13 year olds. Inspired by all things stage and screen, the programme incorporates musical theatre with the principles of fitness, offering a workout that will leave everyone wanting more.

The class will allow your child to grow in confidence, portray a variety of their favourite characters and use movement to create their own show. There are elements of the class where children can really use their imagination to create their own choreography, stories and characters.

Email dsmdancewithlynne@gmail .com or visit www.facebook.com/dsmdancewithlynne for more info.

Love's Farm House Halloween Disco

Saturday 28 October, 6-9pm £3 per person



Spooky fun for the little-uns on 28 October

It's time to get your tickets for our most popular event of the year, the Love's Farm House Halloween Disco. We know Love's Farm takes Halloween VERY seriously and we can't wait to celebrate with you. Bring your friends and family, because this year we have a brand new prize for the best group costume and we can't wait to see what you come up with.

As always, we'll be transforming the hall into Love's Farm Haunted House with the help of our disco lights and plenty of spooky decorations. We'll have terrifying tunes on the dance

floor, ghoulish games and creepy crafts for the kids, and plenty of Halloween themed cocktails and mocktails at the bar. Fancy dress is strongly encouraged but not essential, and we go pretty light touch on the scary stuff to make sure we don't give any little people nightmares!

Tickets cost £3 per person (under 1s are free). All children must be accompanied by a parent or carer, who must have their own ticket. Get your tickets at www.lovesfarmhouse.com/tickets.

Murder at the Grosvenor — A Murder Mystery Evening

| Saturday 9 December, 7.45pm | £25 per person

Following the success of the sold-out Murder Mystery evening in April, RAW Theatre Productions will be back at Love's Farm House this December with Murder at the Grosvenor.

It's 1938 in London and a group of strangers find themselves stuck in a hotel together. What could possibly go wrong?

We need YOU to help investigate the clues, interrogate the suspects and solve the murder!

Ages 16+ only. Tickets cost £25 per person and are already selling fast. Teams can be up to eight people (smaller teams may be seated together). Your ticket includes a glass of Prosecco or soft drink on arrival.



Solve a murder at the Grosvenor (which looks suspiciously like Love's Farm House)

Fancy dress is optional but encouraged. Get your tickets at www.lovesfarmhouse.com/tickets.

Could You Be a Trustee of Love's Farm House?

The Love's Farm House AGM is coming up and we're on the lookout for new Trustees.

Did you know that overall management of Love's Farm House falls to Love's Farm Community Centre CIO, a registered charity which was set up by a group of Love's Farm residents to run the building on behalf of the community? The Trustees of the charity are local residents from lots of different backgrounds, and they have overall responsibility for the building, from employing staff and managing finances to organising events and engaging with our community to find out what they want to see from Love's Farm House. Trustee meetings take place on one Wednesday evening per month.

No particular skills or experience are needed to be a trustee, as everyone will have something to bring to the table. All you need is to feel passionate about making Love's Farm House the best community resource it can be!

If this sounds like a role for you, please get in touch. For more information, contact Andy Hill on chair@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk, or call 01480 262626.

Long Grass Update



See the map showing areas of Alternative Land Management at Love's Farm House

After a summer trial of leaving some of our green spaces to long grass, now is your chance to share your feedback. Send your opinion about the grass cutting (on HDC land only) around Love's Farm to



The Marshy Moor (south of the Pirate Ship) is now a mixture of mown and long grass

openspaces@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) estimates that we can increase wildlife and insect populations by 70% if we change closely mown grass to longer grass that is mown only once or twice a year. Residents from across Huntingdonshire have been enjoying photographing these new residents.

Visit Love's Farm House to view a detailed map of long grass trial locations across Love's Farm.

Congratulations Maria

This July, Love's Farm House trustee Maria Russo became Hunts Forum's "Volunteer of the Year". She received her much-deserved award from Deputy Lieutenant Daryl Brown at an event held at Hinchingbrooke Country Park.

Maria spends many volunteer hours planning and running events at Love's Farm House. Her creative genius has led to many unique events that are very popular with local families. She



Maria Russo's hard work was recognised at the Hunts Forum Volunteer Awards

can also often be found volunteering her Saturday mornings at the Lazy Breakfast Cafe.

SMART Day

Saturday 7 October, 11am and/or 2pm, meet at the Pirate Ship

The next SMART Day community litter pick is on Saturday 7 October. Willing volunteers are so welcome for any amount of time they have to help keep Love's Farm looking as lovely as its name suggests.

Litter at the MUGA

Do you know a young person who enjoys visiting the Multi Use Games



The shelter next to the MUGA is a litter hotspot

Area (MUGA) across from Love's Farm House? With an increasing number of antisocial incidents and police call outs at this site, we're encouraging parents and carers to talk to their young people about acceptable behaviour in our shared spaces.

Litter continues to be an issue at the MUGA shelter. Despite regular visits from council workers as well as volunteer litter pickers, the area around the shelter is regularly covered with rubbish.

The nearby litter bin has also been vandalised and replaced many times. In August the newest replacement bin was made unusable within hours of installation. The cost of continual replacements is no longer viable and the bin has now been permanently removed.

Where MUGA shelters have become the centre of antisocial behaviour on nearby housing estates, they have simply been removed. If there is no improvement in litter or a reduction in the number of antisocial incidents at this spot, we might lose the shelter in the near future (but not the actual basketball court).

St Neots Directory

In autumn 2021 LFCA secured funding from The National Lottery Community Fund to create the St Neots Directory, a website that catalogues over 200 community groups, activities and local businesses that provide opportunities for people to



Celebrating the Launch of the printed Directory at St Neots Library

socialise, exercise, have fun and receive support. The website is available at www.stneots.directory

This year, St Neots Community
Support (www.sncs.org.uk) has
updated the directory and created a
printed version. It's great news for
people who don't have web access or
who simply prefer paper to screens.
It's also great to see the directory
continue to grow and find new
audiences. Huge thanks to Catherine
Goodman from St Neots Community
Support for spearheading this latest
development.

Copies of the printed Directory are available at Love's Farm House and various other locations. Please grab a copy, and consider posting one through the letterbox of any neighbours who might benefit from it.



Copies are available at Love's Farm House

Register to Vote

Elections in the UK can occur at very short notice. Are you ready?

You can register to vote at age 16, and vote from age 18. Remember to update your address if you move.

Head to www.huntingdonshire.gov .uk/elections/register-to-vote to register or update your details.

Love's Farm Little Library



Find the Little Library on the village green off Hogsden Leys near Radland Close

Thanks to our amazing volunteer Steve Warren, our Love's Farm Little Library #2 has returned with upgrades! It's back in service on Hogsden Leys and is open for donations and collections.

Love's Farm Out of Doors

with Phyllis Hooper

This will be my last little homily about our community green areas as I plan to move to pastures new in the near future. I came to Love's Farm 12 years ago to be nearer to our children as Max's health declined. I have enjoyed living here, having lived mostly in little villages with a stint in a seaside town, but, needing to down-size my house, I am drawn back to a small village.

We are so lucky to have our green areas. Not only, as I often point out, does every green leaf provide us with oxygen to live and absorb the carbon dioxide we breathe out, they provide habitats for all the lavers of life, birds. mammals (I've had fox, muntjac deer and hedgehog within a few metres this summer) insects and other creepy crawlies — I once wrote a paper on tardigrades. Sometimes called woolly bears, these are microscopic creatures that live in moss, even that blackish moss between our pavers on the roads. Next time you see a wagtail pecking between the bricks you'll know it is dining on bear! And talking of pecking — at this very moment there is a magpie hunting spiders and other creepy crawlies in the guttering of the house opposite.

Because we are a housing development it is hard to strike and maintain — a happy balance with nature. Nature would take over (watch an episode of Abandoned Engineering) but we like to walk about our business unmolested by rampant nature, however life-giving or beautiful.

Over the years nature has chugged on in its seasonal way but our attempts to 'tame' it have changed. The first winter I lived here, all the willows along Fox Brook were coppiced. Wow, I wasn't ready for that and was worried. Subsequently I've come to realise that that was the best management and that they should probably have been coppiced every six years or so, to give maximum canopy and allow maintenance of the brook.



Dew drops caught in a spider's web

Recently we have had the word 'rewilding' mentioned. Again I was worried — is that a way of saying neglect? The word (policy?) was dropped and we had a 'reduction in mowing', but in this case with a very up-to-date signage with QR codes explaining why and where. Saving taxpayers' money or benefiting the local ecology? Probably both, and



Fun and games at the Big Lunch

that's how it should be — that we begin to understand the role and benefits of nature while still looking after our own lives.

So I now need to move on from my self-imposed responsibilities! Hang up my Gorilla Gardener and Community Partner vests, no longer suspected as having escaped from a secure unit! Lots of my initiatives and efforts have failed (learn and move on), some have succeeded and are struggling on.

A note to ALL tree planters; we are being encouraged to plant, plant, plant but the care that a tree takes to get established is WAY beyond a rabbit guard and stick. Most of the trees that I have planted or tended have suffered because I was not assiduous in my watering. Some have died, mea culpa, others have struggled unnecessarily. For example, the little blue spruce that we planted with great ceremony near the start of Hogsden Levs — he is alive and I believe has got his roots down (i.e. is finding some water at depth), but he could have been so much better if he (and many others) had been watered with a

bucketful once a month between May and September regardless of the amount of rainfall.

My other crusade has been taking 'whiskers' off (street) tree trunks. In my opinion once a tree has its roots down it needs a clean trunk. Some species are worse at whiskers than others and alas it is a self-replicating condition.

I often pass the spot where Max and I planted a horse chestnut tree some 35 years ago. It was cut down because it contracted the disfiguring leaf-miner, subsequently found to be quite non-lethal. We all do the best we know how at the time. Enjoy your green spaces and be grateful we have them.

Phyllis Hooper



Dragonflies and damselflies are a common sight on Love's Farm

Advertise Here

Advertise your company or event with a half-page, quarter-page or classified advert. This newsletter is delivered to 1,500 homes on Love's Farm. Please contact Jenny on 01480 262626 (9am-3pm Monday-Friday) or email jenny@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk.

Get In Touch

Love's Farm News

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

Love's Farm Community Association (LFCA)

info@ourlovesfarm.co.uk Chair: Lara Davenport-Ray chair@ourlovesfarm.co.uk www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk



Bookings and general enquiries (Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm): Jenny 01480 262626, jenny@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk Chair: Andy Hill chair@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk www.lovesfarmhouse.com

Town Councillors

Anna Crompton.

aov.uk

anna.crompton@stneots-tc .gov.uk Katie Dundas-Todorov, katie. duns-todorov@stneots-tc.gov.uk Jaideep Kumar jaideep.kumar@stneots-tc.gov.uk Ben Pitt, ben.pitt@stneots-tc.

District Councillors

Marcus Pickering, marcus.pickering@ huntingdonshire.gov.uk Lara Davenport-Ray, lara.davenport-ray@ huntingdonshire.gov.uk

County Councillor

Stephen Ferguson, 07525 987460, stephen.ferguson @cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Financial Difficulties

Money Advice St Neots (Mast): www.mast.support 01480 260234, help@mast.support

Breakfast Church

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

BPHA

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

Hartbeeps

Ages: 0 to 4. Contact Sarah on 07872 331260 sarah.armstrong@hartbeeps.com, www.hartbeeps.com

Kidslingo French

Ages: 4 to 8. Call 07707 027640 or email harriet.ward@kidslingo.co.uk

Lift Lean, Zumba, Fitness Pilates & Fit Mum

Contact Nicola at njfitness andmassage@outlook.com, www.njfitnessandmassage.com.

Baby Sensory

Birth to 13 months. 07538 502587 beds@babysensory.co.uk, www.babysensory.com

Moo Music

Ages 0-5. Contact Julia on julia@moo-music.co.uk

Pilates with Laura

Contact Laura on 07900 242904 or laura@pilateswithlaura.co.uk

Healthy You

Call 03330 050093 or visit www.healthyyou.org.uk

Youth Café

School years 7 to 13. Email Jake at jakelfcafe@outlook.com

Love's Farm Tang Soo Do Karate Club

Ages: 6 to adult. Contact Paul on 07790 217170

Broadway Boogie & Broadway Boogie Kids

Contact Lynne on dsmdancewithlynne@gmail.com or facebook.com/dsmdancewithlynne.

Little Loves

Ages: Birth to Preschool, £1 per family. Helene, 07938 803501, community.chaplain@yahoo.co.uk

GPC Mixed Martial Arts

Visit www.gpcmma.com.

Love's Farm Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

guides@lovesfarmguiding.org.uk, www.girlguiding.org.uk

Mama Baby Bliss Yoga

Yoga for babies, toddlers, mums and dads. 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

Love's Farm Book Club

Join the Facebook group at www.facebook.com/lovesfarmbookclub

Street Dance

Various classes for ages 4+. Contact Katy on 07500 875060, www.katynorthdanceacademy .com

Footsteps Dance Academy (ballet, tap & modern)

Contact

missjemma@footsteps.co.uk or www.footstepsdance.co.uk

Love's Farm Ladies (WI)

lovesfarmladieswi@gmail.com

Love's Farm Runners

Visit www.facebook.com/lovesfarmrunners

2nd St Neots Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

tinyurl.com/lovesfarmcubs





Sunday

1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
* Farm House Cafe 9am - 1.45pm Hartbeeps 9.30, 10.30, 11.30, 12.45 Kidslingo French 4.40 - 5.20pm Lift Lean 6.15 - 7pm Zumba 7.05 - 7.50pm Fitness Pilates 8 - 9pm	* FH Cafe 9am - 12noon * bpha Drop-In 9.30 - 12 Moo Music 9.45, 10.45 Broadway Boogie KIDS 5.10 - 5.50pm Rainbows & Brownies 5pm, 6.15pm Pilates 6pm, 7pm, 8pm LF Runners 8pm @ Stn Sq	Healthy You 9.30 - 1.30 Fit Mum 9.35 - 10.20am Fitness Pilates 10.30 - 11.30am * Youth Cafe 3.30 - 5pm Sec Sch Y7-13 Karate 5.30 - 7pm Broadway Boogie 7.10pm	* Little Loves 9.30 - 10.30am GPC MMA 4.30pm, 5.15pm Guides 7.30 - 9pm	Toddler Yoga 9.45am Baby Yoga 10.45am Youth Club 5pm, 6pm * Karaoke & Cocktails @ the Farm House Bar 8pm - late	* Lazy Breakfast 9.15 - 11.15am Street Dance 9.15am, 9.45am, 10.30am, 11am Footsteps Dance 8.45am - 4.30pm SMART Day 11am & 2pm Meet @ the Pirate Ship	* Breakfast Church 10am Love's Farm House is available for private hire at weekends. Call 01480 262626 or visit www. lovesfarmhouse.
* FH Cafe Hartbeeps Kidslingo French Lift Lean Zumba Fitness Pilates Times as above	* FH Cafe Moo Music Broadway Boogie KIDS R'bows & B'nies Pilates LF Runners Times as above	Healthy You Fit Mum Fitness Pilates * Youth Cafe Karate B'way Boogie Times as above	* Little Loves 9.30 - 10.30am GPC MMA 4.30pm, 5.15pm Brownies 6 - 7.30pm Guides 7.30 - 9pm	Toddler Yoga Baby Yoga Youth Club Times as above * Pride @ the Farm House Bar 7.45 - 11pm	* Lazy Breakfast Street Dance Footsteps Dance Times as above	* Breakfast Church 10am
* FH Cafe Hartbeeps Halloween Rave 10am, 12noon, 2pm Kidslingo French Lift Lean Zumba Fitness Pilates Times as above	* Farm House Cafe Moo Music Broadway Boogie KIDS Rainbows & Brownies Pilates LF Runners Times as above	Healthy You Fit Mum Fitness Pilates * Youth Cafe Karate Broadway Boogie Times as above *LFCA Meeting 7.30pm Zoom	* Little Loves GPC MMA Brownies Guides Times as above Love's Farm Ladies WI 7pm @ SNFC	Toddler Yoga Baby Yoga Youth Club Times as above * Games Night @ the Farm House Bar 7.45pm - 11pm * Love's Farm Book Club 7.45pm	* Lazy Breakfast 9.15 - 11.15am Street Dance 9.15am, 9.45am, 10.30am, 11am	* Breakfast Church 10am
23	Toddler Sense 10.15am Baby Sensory 12.30pm BB Kids 5.10 - 5.50pm Pilates 6pm, 7pm, 8pm	Katy North Dance Academy: Street Dance Workshop 9am-3pm	* Chocolate Bingo 6.30pm - 8.30pm	* Craft Night @ the Farm House Bar 7.45pm -11pm	Halloween Disco 6pm - 9pm www.lovesfarm house.com/tick ets/	29

* FH Cafe

Hartbeeps
Kidslingo
Lift Lean
Zumba
Fitness Pilates
Times as above

Cafe
BB KIDS
Rainbows &
Brownies
Pilates
LF Runners

* Farm House

Times as above

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