



Love's Farm News

July - August 2020

www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk

Celebrating the Lockdown Heroes of Love's Farm



Hello Love's Farm, we hope you're keeping well. The last three months have been really difficult for so many reasons, and as we cautiously move out of full lockdown, the challenges are by no means over.

One thing we can all take comfort in is that the legendary Love's Farm community spirit is alive and well. While many of our regular community activities have been suspended, others have adapted and new ones have sprung up. People have responded to the challenges, stresses and fears of

the pandemic with acts of kindness.

Some of these people and acts are covered on the next few pages, but there are countless others who have quietly done their bit, helping their neighbours and being there for each other. A big Thank You to all of you!

As a result, our LFCA community support hotline has been pretty quiet, but we're still here if you need us, particularly for shopping trips if you're stuck indoors. Please give us a call on 01480 589059 (9am-5pm) — we'd be happy to help.

Love's Farm Windows Become an Art Gallery

At the start of lockdown, pictures of rainbows started springing up in windows across the country. Schools encouraged children to spread hope while they were homeschooling.

Love's Farm was no different. At the beginning of lockdown, the future was uncertain and everything felt a bit glum. So when the rainbows and later suns started appearing in the windows, it really cheered us up. There were painted ones, crocheted ones, huge ones, ones dedicated to the NHS, slogans of hope in different languages and even chalked ones on the brickwork.

My family enjoyed spotting them in the windows on our daily walks and bike rides. Of course, being Love's Farm, so many people participated to bring the community together and create a feeling of hope.

My six year old (Elodie) and four year old (Cameron) dusted off their brushes and got straight to work creating their own artwork for other



Window art made from paper cutouts of hands

families to enjoy. It was lovely to see people stopping to look.

Rainbows and suns remind us there is hope and light to follow after dark times. Storms don't last forever.

Sally Tilley

The Enchantment of Auntie's Wood

I really wanted to do something for the community during lockdown. When my mum told me about the fairy woods in her town I thought this would be perfect for Auntie's Wood.



Fairies, unicorns and other mystical beings are all welcome at Auntie's Wood (Photo: Lizzie Day)

My two little girls and I started off by making a few fairies and some fairy homes. We set up a Facebook page called The Enchantment of Auntie's Wood. Whilst putting the fairies up in the wood we bumped into our lovely friends, who thought it was a wonderful idea and helped spread the word and invited people to the group. By the following day there were so many more fairies and the magic was really setting in.

Children from Love's Farm and beyond started to bring their beautiful

creations to make it a truly wonderful place to visit, including the wishing tree (see page 1) where children can entrust their hopes and dreams to the mystical tree. There have also been sharks, soldiers, unicorns, incredible fairy houses, uplifting messages and a fairy tea party to name but a few. The magic has spread far and wide, with reports of fairies in other parts of St Neots as well.

We hope it has given happy memories for all these children (and adults) when they look back at lockdown 2020. It really feels as though it has become a magical place for all.

Zoe Dunn

Love's Farm Rock Snake

My two sons, Charlie (aged 9) and Theo (4), and I started the Love's Farm Rock Snake on Wednesday 13 May.

I painted a snake head on one rock, and then the boys painted theirs in different designs. I made a poster showing people how to join in. We placed it near the Pirate Ship play park on Love's Farm where there is a long railing going the length of the park. Lots of people walk past on daily walks so it was an ideal spot.

I then started a Facebook group, inviting friends to join, hoping it would soon take off and create a really long snake. Within a couple of days there were nearly 50 rocks. Now there are over 800!

Lots of children have taken photos



Charlie and Theo with the Love's Farm Rock Snake

and posted them on the group, showing off their rock designs. There are sparkly ones, neon ones, jewelled ones, as well as all sorts of rainbows. Local businesses and organisations have also joined in by popping some personalised ones down, including Kester Preschool and Love's Farm Pharmacy. The local police posted about it on their Facebook page, and it even made it onto the BBC news.

We are hoping that it is going to be a permanent feature of Love's Farm as a commemoration of this time.

Gemma Keech

Little Lockdown Library

You may have noticed when driving through villages such as Hail Weston that old phone boxes have been repurposed as local libraries. In lieu of any old phone boxes to claim, the front porch of 3 Fox Covert has become a community library. Whilst the libraries and schools have been shut it has been well used by those still wanting to enjoy a good book. Whenever the weather is dry the



Katie Rush and the Little Lockdown Library

books will be out and available for people to come and help themselves to as many as they want. There have also been generous donations from the community too, supporting the 'Bring a Book, Borrow a Book' ethos.

Katie Rush

Brownies and Guides

The Brownies and Guides groups that normally meet at Love's Farm House have gone virtual, with all weekly meetings held via Zoom.

The Brownies have hosted their own game shows, with Brownies' Got Talent, Countdown and Family Fortunes. They've learned French as part of their Languages Badge and have spoken to a variety of visitors about their careers for their Jobs Badge.

The Guides have also been busy creating artwork for Poppyfields care home, creating board games, hosting quizzes and taking part in Ju Jitsu.

Both groups have even held virtual sleepovers. Many badges have been achieved and everyone (leaders included) has had lots of fun. Parents have sent lovely messages of thanks,

saying that the normality of attending Brownies and Guides has been a lifeline to their daughter.

The Brownie Group will continue to meet over the summer holiday, and we have spaces for girls aged 7-10. Register at www.girlguiding.org.uk and select 4th St Neots (Love's Farm) Brownies who meet on Thursdays.

We are always seeking new adult volunteers to join in the fun. If you or someone you know is interested, please register online to get in touch.

Lucy Knights

Love's Farm Lockdown Beer & Cheese Festival

| Friday 31 July, 8pm until late

The pubs are reopening with strict social distancing measures in place, but sadly it might be a little longer before the Friday night bar at Love's Farm House is ready to open again.

In the meantime, the Farm House events team is joining forces with Shumë to bring you an evening of exceptional craft beer and tongue-tingling cheese, direct to your home.

The format has changed a little... Rather than a taste of five beers, you'll receive four 330ml cans of speciality beers, four cheeses to accompany them and a Shumë glass. We'll be hosting the event online on 31 July, so tune in to hear us introduce and discuss each beer. You could even invite a small group of friends to join you in your garden (following social



distancing rules of course).

Tickets (aka your Shumë delivery) cost £21.95, and are available from www.shume.co.uk. Please order by Friday 24 July to ensure we can deliver to you in time.

Love's Farm Runners

Love's Farm Runners is back on the track, trails, hills and of course the wiggly path! Having been meeting on Zoom during the height of lockdown, at the time of writing we are offering a socially distant session once a week. Each run is carefully planned to make sure that each group has one leader and as few runners as possible to make sure we can run safely.

As always we meet at 8pm on a Tuesday at Station Square where we split into our groups.

There's one thing that's changed and that is, for now, we're only accepting new runners who can run a 5km (3.1 mile) distance. There are no pace requirements. As soon as we can accept folks who are brand new to running, we will let you all know.

All of the leaders are so glad to be back running at LFR. We truly believe that running is good for the body, mind and soul. While many of our members have been running solo, there's nothing like running in a group.

We also welcome Sophia as our in-house personal trainer. She qualifies in July from her Level 3 course and her online HIIT courses have been a great boost to our fitness.

Please visit groups.runtogether.co.uk/LovesFarmRunners and www.facebook.com/TrainwithSophiaA.

Charlie Ashley-Roberts

Love's Farm Book Club

The Love's Farm Book Club has kept going throughout lockdown, with meetings via Zoom. They'll be meeting on Friday 17 July to discuss *The Colour Purple* by Alice Walker. Join them via www.facebook.com/groups/lovesfarmbookclub for details on how to join the Zoom call.

Community Garden

In addition to the community garden at Love's Farm House, the team have added a new space during lockdown. Helene and Jonathan have created an additional community garden space at the side of their home on 76 Stone Hill. With lots of advice from Jessica, Maria, Ian and Wendy, and donations of veg and plants from them plus Nadine, Simon and Paula, the new public garden is ready and open. Please feel free to



The new community garden at 76 Stone Hill

have a look and wander round. You can enter via the new side gate and pick some herbs, strawberries, chillies, tomatoes, or peas. There's a small garden pond to see, plenty that needs watering, or just come and enjoy the space to sit and be still.

Helene Tame

Love's Farm Church

While the community centre has been closed, Love's Farm Church has found a variety of ways to stay connected. Breakfast Church has been gathering on Sunday mornings via Zoom with all of the usual Breakfast Church ingredients — except for breakfast! Pancakes have been a constant on the Sunday morning menu so our first task was to provide the recipe and demo with an online video from Jonathan. Do get in touch with Helene if you want to connect on Sundays via Zoom.

We've blitzed Wednesdays with nine minutes of prayer at 9am and 9pm and 30 minutes at 7.30pm, 'gathering' to pray as we've all navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. Inter-

net statistics and national polls suggest that, whether we make a habit of prayer (in all its forms) or not, a crisis of any kind is more likely to provoke prayer. It has certainly spurred our commitment to praying for the impact on all of us of the coronavirus.

Messy Church has transferred from Love's Farm House to 'Takeaways'. On the first Friday of every month bags are filled with craft and activity resources to be used at home alongside our Facebook videos.

We'll continue with Breakfast Church via Zoom and Messy Church via 'Takeaways' until we can safely gather back at Love's Farm House. To join in please contact Helene at community.chaplain@yahoo.co.uk or call 07938 803501 — thanks!

Helene Tame

SMART Day is Back

| Saturday 11 July, 11am and 2pm

During lockdown SMART has happened household by household as people took the opportunity to combine a daily walk with some litter picking. Thank you so much to everyone who helped to keep our shared spaces cleared and clean. It's still possible to do that, but we're also going back to a community-wide SMART day on Saturday 11 July. Meet at the Pirate Ship at 11am and/or 2pm (as before) to collect some bags and grabbers. Please limit each team to just one household and keep your distance from others — thank you!

Community Money Advice

The consequences of the pandemic have and will affect many of us financially. If you have any concerns about debt or questions about budgeting, the Community Money Advice (CMA) team continue to offer telephone or virtual meetings.

The CMA service is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The volunteer team are fully trained and supported by the national CMA charity. They are committed to offering a confidential, sympathetic and non-judgemental service.

Book an appointment by emailing moneyadvice@lovesfarmchurch.com or calling 01480 260234.

Introducing Mayor Ferguson

On 5 May 2020 St Neots Town Council appointed Stephen Ferguson as Mayor of St Neots. It's the first time a Love's Farm resident has held this post — a reflection of the shift in the



Sebastian, Mayor Ferguson and Rufus (l-r)

centre of gravity of our town. Robert Simonis, another councillor for St Neots East, was appointed deputy mayor. Congratulations to them both.

All of our councillors' contact details can be found on the back page.

Baby Sensory

Babies learn more in their first three months of life than at any other time, so don't let lockdown stop you from laying those all-important foundations for later learning.

Baby Sensory classes and community have moved online. We have all the same routines, music, singing, signing and puppets, and use easy-to-find props from around the home.

Termly bookings include 40-minute online classes, videos, top tips, a baby first aid course and access to our private Facebook group where we can share ideas and provide support for that all-important social aspect. Sessions cost £20 for five weeks. To book please visit www.babysensory.com/beds.

Samantha Parkes

Shining Stars

Shining Stars is a new charity that supports children with additional needs and disabilities in St Neots and Cambridgeshire. We launched in January 2020 offering weekly sensory play sessions, arts and crafts, held every Tuesday afternoon at Love's Farm House. Due to COVID-19 we

have sadly not been able to offer this service. However we were still able to organise an Easter drawing competition and delivered Easter Eggs to the winners. On our Facebook page we have had spot the differences, riddles and joke time, where everyone got involved and had some fun.

Lockdown for many families has been, and still is, a difficult time. We as a charity wanted to do something fun, positive and practical for the children, so we have been delivering sensory play toy packs and crafts for the children to do while at home.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our group and new members once we are safely able to do so. Please get in touch on 07751 570510 or natalie@shiningstars.org.uk for more information.

Natalie Sparrow

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a national initiative that aims to create strong, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour are less likely to happen. It sends a clear message that crime and antisocial behaviour is not tolerated in our community. We undertake to work with the police by reporting issues that affect our neighbourhood.

Back in October Love's Farm Community Association (LFCA) launched a community-wide Neighbourhood Watch scheme to cover the whole of Love's Farm, and the first successful

meeting was held at Love's Farm House. We'd love for more people to join in — the more of us who join together, the better chance we have of reducing crime in our community and keeping our neighbourhood safe. You might even find that you get a discount on your home insurance just for being a member.

Don't worry, we won't be asking for endless hours of volunteering and attending meetings but we'd like you to help expand the network to cover Love's Farm. By joining the scheme you'll receive regular updates from the Neighbourhood Watch Network and Love's Farm local group, but there's no other commitment.

Please visit www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk/watch for instructions on how to sign up. We wish this was simpler but please don't be put off, and let us know at neighbourhood-watch@ourlovesfarm.co.uk if you need help.

Our group has been busy planning locations for Neighbourhood Watch signs across Love's Farm. We will soon be purchasing and installing the signs with money contributed by bpha and LFCA.

Caroline Henderson



Getting Back to a New Normal

There's no denying that the last few months have been challenging for all of us. Yet now, as lockdown eases, it feels like we've

started to come out the other side. bpha employees are still mostly working from home but we've been able to look at what we need to do to keep residents safe and create new, coronavirus-safe, ways to do things.

Please visit www.bpha.org.uk to keep up-to-date with all we're doing and what we're doing differently, such as how we're restarting our planned maintenance work programme and carrying out routine repairs.

Our Customer Service opening hours have changed slightly. We're now open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. You can get in touch by calling 0330 100 0272 or emailing info@bpha.org.uk.

Finally, we'd like to say thank you to all those who have come together to support others during lockdown. At Love's Farm we've seen so many examples of the Community Association and residents working together to look after one another — something that is truly wonderful to see.

Abi Broadhurst, bpha

Wintringham Update

It has clearly been a challenging few months for everyone, and we thought it was helpful to provide our neighbours on Love's Farm with an update on progress at Wintringham.

While most work stopped on site during the main lockdown period, the archaeologists and team building the school were able to come back soonest following the social



Wintringham Primary Academy is taking shape

distancing guidance. Now the house builders are also back on site, with the Morris Homes Sales Suite open again and CALA Homes looking to launch its new homes later in the Summer. We anticipate that the first residents will be moving in towards the end of the year, by which time the school, play areas, walking and cycle routes will all be in place.

The next few weeks will see a number of key pieces of infrastructure work taking place. There will be some traffic management on Cambridge Road to enable the installation of a full bus stop (where the current flag stop is located) and to install two pedestrian crossings to connect Wintringham and Love's Farm. We will provide further details as the dates are finalised.

We have also secured the final go ahead to install a Construction Access on the A428 towards the south of the site. This will mean that we can close the existing access on Cambridge Road and route traffic away, so anyone coming to the site uses the main road network. This work will begin in June and will

involve traffic lights along that road at night for a period of time. The roadworks will be cleared away in the daytime to minimise the impact on the local road network. There are two nights where the A428 will need to be closed along this section and a diversion put in place. Confirmed dates will be shared at www.wintringham.org, social media and promoted through LFCA, Black Cat radio and other local media. These roadworks are due to be completed by the end of October. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

We are very excited about the work currently underway on site, which includes landscaping from Cambridge Road to the school to create a safe and attractive walking and cycling route. It also includes the civic square with space for children to play and parents to meet up during drop off and pick up. This will sit alongside an area that will eventually be home to shops, a café and gym, to create a dynamic outdoor space for people to enjoy.

While so much work is underway on site, we urge all our neighbours to stay away from the areas under construction. The fencing and signs are there to keep people safe and away from the areas where construction is underway. These are removed when the area is safe for people to use the space, and we are opening up the spaces that are finished as soon as we can to ensure local people can benefit from them.

We are also working with the archaeology team to pull together some information on their finds to date. We will be producing a full report next year when they have all been fully researched and put into their historical context. The team working on Wintringham also carried out the excavations on Love's Farm and are pulling together a rich picture of the residents who came before us, their ways of life and customs. We will be looking to draw this heritage into a number of the design features of the development, as we have with the school, which reflects the historic roundhouses that provided homes in the area in the Iron Age.

As ever, if you have questions about the development, please get in touch with me on 01480 413141 or rbritton@urbanandcivic.com. You can also follow us on social media [@wearewintringham](https://www.instagram.com/wearewintringham).

Rebecca Britton

Love's Farm Out of Doors

I was very lucky as a child, growing up on a farm in Kent, and I subscribe to the memory myth that there was perpetual sunny summer.

My mother was a teacher, keen gardener and rural holiday-taker. By the time I left school I had kind of absorbed the names of most European flowers, birds, many trees and lots of creepy crawlies. Many of the other things I learnt have become

completely obsolete, with so much information now only a couple of clicks away, but I have always cherished that easy early learning. I still have many of the reference books that I used. Sometimes a small *objet trouvé* will fall out, reminding me of a certain walk, after which I had had to “look it up”. I’m not just a relic though: I also have an app (Plant Identifier for iOS by Phuong Bui) to which I can send a plant photo and get an instant name — magic.

I do find, though, that it is difficult to be both a gardener AND a naturalist. As a gardener I hate slugs, snails, aphids, ants, leaf-cutter beetles, mildew and more. As a naturalist I can see that all these critters have a place. Basically the tiniest, which has usually got its energy from plants, being eaten by the slightly larger and so on up to the so-called top predators — on Love’s Farm the magpie and the fox.

Several people have been worried by the infestation of web-making



These parts of Love’s Farm are rich ecosystems



Blue skies, dog roses and lockdown

caterpillars on our spindle bushes (*Euonymus europaeus*). Firstly don’t panic about the bushes. In the natural world it is not in the creature’s best interest to kill its food source. Most of the plants will survive. These caterpillars have a slightly different life cycle to many other moths and their glut just coincides with the hatching of Blue Tit babies for example, so easy pickings and a “good year” for small birds. There’s good news too for the green woodpecker: the drought has meant a bumper crop of ants.

So when the aphids and leaf-cutters have decimated my rose bushes I try to think of the wildlife that is benefiting. On television we see and hear a lot about ecosystems, usually in exotic places like tropical rainforests, and how the palm oil farmers are destroying the forests in which orangutans live, or the shrinking areas of bamboo, which is the only food of the giant panda — big showy, emotional and expensive

issues. We have our own ecosystems, all interlinking, on Love's Farm. Our beautiful butterflies came from caterpillars eating some pretty flower. In turn it will become lunch for a hungry fledgling, which may or may not survive the magpie. I once saw a magpie systematically take five baby black-birds from their nest to feed its own!

Nature may be cruel in our eyes but

it is also beautiful. We humans mess with little bits, sometimes intentionally by spraying so called pests, and sometimes without thinking by converting an old farm building and displacing barn owls. By learning what we have around us, we can enjoy, accept or manage in the best interests of nature and humans.

Phyllis Hooper

Useful Contacts

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  [ourlovesfarm](http://ourlovesfarm.co.uk)
Coronavirus community support:
help@ourlovesfarm.co.uk,
01480 589059

Medical assistance

Emergency: 999
Non-urgent medical help: 111
Love's Farm Pharmacy:
www.lovesfarmpharmacy.co.uk
01480 215665

Crime / Police assistance

Emergency: 999
Non-urgent crime reporting, police assistance: report online at
www.cambs.police.uk/report/Crime
or call 101

Help with Children and Young People

Round House/Wintringham Primary Academy: 01480 479890
School emergency contact (Miss Roberts) including safeguarding concerns: 07521 976313
Child protection concerns.
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 0345 0455203

Young Carers' Support (leave a message): 0333 414 1809
youngcarers@centre33.org.uk

Child health issues — duty school nurse advice line (9.30am-4.30pm)
0300 029 5050 ccs.cambs.hcp.
schoolnursingdutydesk@nhs.net
Children's mental health (CHUMS)
0330 0581 659

Special education needs (SEN) help/advice (SENDIASS:.) 01223 699214,
pps@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
sendiass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Child and Family Centres (Facebook pages will provide up-to-date information):

Bargroves: 01480 376199
Eaton Socon: 01480 358340
Eynesbury: 01480 358350

Financial Difficulties

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

Community Chaplain

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

Cambridgeshire County Council

(Schools, roads, social care)
0345 045 5200
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk
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Huntingdonshire District Council

(Bins, open spaces, council tax, planning, housing)

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www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk
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www.wearehuntingdonshire.org

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