



Love's Farm News

April - May 2023

www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk

Big Help Out for the King's Coronation



Raise your hand if you're up for some litter picking — His Royal Highness is encouraging people to get involved in their local community as part of the Coronation celebrations

The forthcoming Coronation celebrations conclude with an extra bank holiday on Monday 8 May. The King is hoping communities will use this day to come together for a Big Help Out. That seems like the perfect invitation to rally volunteers from across our own community and do a mega clear up of our shared spaces and green places.

We'd love to remove the remaining

tree guards, clear our waterways and the grids at various points along them, as well as do a springtime tidy up of our community centre garden. Please save the date and take part if you can. As the day approaches please visit www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk or www.facebook.com/ourlovesfarm for further details. It would be lovely to gather as many as we can over the day for an hour or more. Who knows,

maybe we can include some 'picnic pit stops' at various points to share left over coronation cakes and treats!

St Neots Bus Update

The 61 and 61x bus routes currently provide an important connection for residents to travel around St Neots, with stops including the station and the market square. Whippet has recently announced that they are pulling out of providing the service. This means that a new provider will need to be found. The process of appointing the new provider of route 61 has already begun. The Combined Authority of Cambridgeshire and

Peterborough hope to have the provider in place to minimise any gap in service. However, there may well be changes to the schedule once a new company takes over the route.

We Need Your Help to Improve Station Square

Station Square was always meant to be the centrepiece of Love's Farm, an impressive civic space that would welcome people arriving at the station, and a focal point for our community.

Sadly, it's never quite lived up to that; the trees have all died due to inadequate drainage in the tree pits, and the area has long been blighted by the eyesore wasteland which has just recently been turned into a car park.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) — who are now responsible for the space — have earmarked some funds for improvements, but as things stand the funds are limited.

We are looking to establish a community-led initiative to re-imagine Station Square and make it a space at the heart of Love's Farm which we are proud of. The changes could be small or big — that's up to you! We will need to create a vision and work in partnership with HDC to make it a reality, for which we may need to raise further funds.

If you have ideas, skills, or just enthusiasm and would like to be



Trained in Holistic Therapy, Indian Head Massage and Deep Tissue Massage, at Unwind, the focus is placed on individually tailoring each session by adapting my techniques to what your body needs. Even better, I can come to you with my portable massage bed, so you can relax in your own home comforts.

30 minutes - £30

45 minutes - £45

60 minutes - £55

Please contact unwindtherapy22@gmail.com if you're ready to Unwind, or visit 'Unwind at Loves Farm' on Facebook.

I look forward to seeing you.



Station Square is still a bit of a blank canvas. Could you help bring it to life?

involved then please get in touch with marcus.pickering@ourlovesfarm.co.uk

Love's Farm House Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday 8th April 2023 10am-1pm

Free entry to cafe,
Easter Egg Hunt £2 per child

Love's Farm House will be celebrating Easter Saturday with an Easter Eggstravaganza at the Farm House Cafe. The cafe will be open from 10am to 1pm, serving up hot cross buns and Easter cakes as well as our usual sausage rolls, pastries and hot and cold drinks.

Children can participate in an Easter Egg Hunt around the building, finding clues and solving puzzles to win a chocolate egg, and the Easter Bunny will be popping in to visit!

Entry to the cafe is free. If you would like to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt, tickets cost £2 per child and can be bought in advance via

www.lovesfarmhouse.com/tickets.

There may be a small number of tickets to purchase on the day, subject to availability.

We hope to see you there!

Murder at the Theatre: A Murder Mystery Evening

Saturday 15th April 2023

7.45pm-11.30pm

£25 per person

You are cordially invited to dress in your finery for an evening of entertainment, murder and intrigue at Love's Farm House.

It's preview opening night of Raw Productions' latest play. The cast and crew are ready, the critic has arrived and the audience are excited. But one person will not see opening night...

We need YOU to help Inspector Darcy Meltoya investigate the clues, interrogate the suspects and solve



RAW Productions host a night of murder mystery at the Farm House on 15 April

the murder!

Ages 16+ only. Tickets cost £25 per person and include a glass of prosecco or a soft drink on arrival, plus nibbles on your table. The bar will be open throughout the event. Get your tickets at www.lovesfarmhouse.com/tickets.

What's New at Love's Farm House

Arty Kids Creative Workshops

Thursdays 6th April & 1st June
12.15 - 1.45pm

Ages 5-10 years

From Easter 2023, Arty Kids will be

bringing their creative workshops to Love's Farm House during school holidays. These workshops aim to introduce children aged five to 10 years old to different ranges of materials in a fun and non-restrictive manner, where they can discover creativity in a safe and carefree environment.

The Easter holiday workshop on Thursday 6 April is a **Little Grand Master Finger Painting Workshop** (£12 per child), where children will be learning everything about colours. They will be blending and mixing using their fingers, as well as learning about perspectives and moods using classic masterpieces as a template.

The half term workshop on 1 June



PAINTING & DECORATING

PAINT SPRAYING

DUSTLESS SANDING

WALLPAPERING

FREE QUOTES & ADVICE

5 STAR CUSTOMER REVIEWS



CONTACT US TODAY

07500 630000

hello@hortonpaintinganddecorating.co.uk

 @hortonpaintinganddecorating

 /hortonpaintinganddecorating



Children aged 5-10 can try their hand at marbling at the Arty Kids Creative Workshop

is a **Marbling Workshop** (£20 per child), where children will be using the marbling technique to make a door sign with their own name on it. Children will learn how to let a medium unfold its pattern in a controlled environment, as well as hand-and-eye co-ordination and planning how to complete a project.

At the end of each session, children will come home with their work and a certificate for completing the workshop.

Please visit www.poco-imagework.com/artykids for more information and to book.

Fibre Broadband Options on Love's Farm

Did you know that Love's Farm now has an abundance of choices for ultrafast broadband connections?

Recent changes to legislation have meant that Openreach have had to share their ducts with other providers. This has meant that new suppliers

have been able to reach our homes without expensive and disruptive excavations.

BT (www.bt.com) have been in the area from the start, but in the last couple of years they have been offering fibre connections all the way to our homes, with download speeds up to 1000Mbps. Some other providers (such as Sky and TalkTalk) also use the Openreach network, although not all can provide fibre to the premises, which will limit the speeds they can offer.

Next up, **YouFibre** (www.youfibre.com) can also offer you download speeds up to 1000Mbps. Uniquely, their speed is symmetric, which means that their upload speed is the same as their download speed (most providers offer much slower uploads).

Finally, the most recent provider to arrive on Love's Farm is **Virgin Media** (www.virginmedia.com) who tip the scales with the fastest available download speed at 1130Mbps, as well as TV services.

You might not notice much



The new cabinets appearing on Love's Farm have been installed by Virgin Media

difference between these 1000Mbps+ services and the much slower 36Mbps and 74Mbps deals that have been available for a while. 36Mbps is still fast enough for streaming video from Netflix or iPlayer, web browsing and email. However if you have multiple people in your household, all using streaming video services, then the new faster services can avoid those dreaded buffering icons.

Also look out for services rated at speeds such as 150Mbps and 500Mbps. These use the 1000Mbps network but limit the service to what are still very healthy speeds, and cost a bit less per month.

Easter Chocolate Bingo

Thursday 13 April, 6-9pm,
Love's Farm House

Join us for the ever popular Chocolate Bingo! (Playing for chocolate rather than cash!)

Doors open at 6pm, eyes down at 6.30pm. We'll play at least 10 games, and our bingo caller Emma is sure to liven things up with some Love's Farm twists.



It's always a full house at Chocolate Bingo

Fun for all the family all for just £1 per person (that's one book of 10 games) if you want to play with more books that's fine — it's £1 for each additional book.

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

Love's Farm House Availability

Do you have an idea for an after-school club? Or do you run an existing after-school club which is looking for a new venue? Following the winding down of several of our long-standing groups, Love's Farm House has some afternoon slots available for long-term hire. We have a large hall with an AV system and disco lights, a meeting room seating up to 12 people, and a well-equipped kitchen. Sadly we can't accommodate activities involving ball games or skateboards.

We also have a Wednesday evening hire slot opening up in April, from 8pm onwards. We expect this peak-time hire slot to go quickly. Please get in touch if you're interested.

For more information or to make a booking, contact Jenny on bookings@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk or 01480 262626. You can find more details about hiring Love's Farm House on our website at www.lovesfarmhouse.com/hirerates.

Introducing Money Advice St Neots (MAST)



Do you have money worries or are you struggling with debt? Money Advice St Neots (formerly Love's Farm Community Money Advice) offers free,

confidential, non-judgemental debt advice and budgeting coaching. We can help free you from debt and enable you to live a debt-free life. Please email help@mast.support, call 01480 260234 or check out our website www.mast.support for more information.

Thanks Tesco & GENCO Construction!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Tesco and GENCO Construction Services for repainting the Love's Farm House hall!

When Tesco were planning their refurbishment of the Tesco Express store on Love's Farm, they reached out to us to find out whether Love's Farm House could benefit from some redecorating at the same time. We were more than happy to say yes!

Tesco & GENCO kindly provided a team of workers plus a scissor lift, and repainted the hall from top to bottom. They even managed to fit the work in around our hire schedule so that none of our activities were disrupted!



The walls at Love's Farm House are looking as good as new, thanks to generous support from Tesco and GENCO Construction

The work finished just in time for everyone to enjoy at the Valentine's Disco. Thank you Tesco and GENCO for supporting us with this project and helping to maintain this great space for our community!

Love's Farm House is a Warm Space

Did you know that the café and bar sessions at Love's Farm House are now officially designated Warm Spaces under Huntingdonshire District Council's Warm Spaces scheme? This scheme aims to identify public spaces where the District's residents can go to keep warm, meet other people and have fun, while keeping their home heating bills low!

The Farm House Café runs on Tuesday mornings during term time from 9am to 12noon, while the Lazy Breakfast Cafe happens on Saturday mornings during term time from 9.15am to 11.15am. You are welcome

to come and sit in the foyer, use our free Wi-Fi and read a book or magazine from the micro library. No purchase is necessary to use the building, but a range of hot drinks and pastries are available to buy from the cafe at very reasonable prices.

On selected Tuesdays we are joined by Little Dutch Bites, offering freshly made poffertjes (mini Dutch pancakes).

The Farm House Bar runs on Friday evenings from 7:30pm onwards. We have a regular schedule of themed nights as well as one-off events, but there's no pressure to participate and no purchase is necessary.

And don't forget that the Love's Farm House foyer is open to the public during our opening hours, usually 9am-3pm in term time and 9am-12noon during school holidays. There are a number of other Warm Spaces across the town including St Neots Library, One Leisure and the Priory Centre. Please visit www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/warm-spaces for more details.

Love's Farm Tang Soo Do Karate Club

Students from the Love's Farm Tang Soo Do Karate Club have had



Host your party at Love's Farm House

Children's parties (12-3pm or 3-6pm) - £90

Saturday night (6pm-midnight) - £290

Saturday all day (midday-midnight) - £450

Please call 01480 262626 or email bookings@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk for more information

www.lovesfarmhouse.com facebook.com/lovesfarmhouse



Grading success for four students at Love's Farm Tang Soo Do Karate Club

another successful belt grading. Well done to everyone who participated (pictured here with chief instructor Master Robin Doughy).

The Karate Club meets at Love's Farm House on Wednesdays from 5.30-7pm. It's a family-friendly club and everyone is welcome, from ages 6 to adults — there's no upper age limit. All grades and ages train together under the instruction of two Master instructors (4th and 5th Dan black belts). New members are always welcome. Please contact Paul on 07790 217170 for more information, or pop in to one of our sessions.

Love's Farm Out of Doors

With Phyllis Hooper

When I hear of tropical cyclones and tornadoes and damage to homes caused by floods and landslides I am so grateful I live in the UK. However we seem to be experiencing

changing weather patterns too. One week cold, the next "unseasonably" mild, a particularly dry February but a very wet start to March . . . Maybe we are just fed too many statistics!

There is no doubt that that very cold week in early December hurt a lot of plants.

Spiky New Zealand flax are all looking sad, and in gardens lots of the originally planted hebes look dead. I think the latter will recover but may need a fairly radical cut back before they look any good. If anyone is worried give me a call and I will try to advise or help.

The planters on the path to the Station have not had a good start, what with weather and some light-fingered passers-by, but we will see what recovers and then do some replanting. Hopefully the Round House school are going to make some Welcome and Bon Voyage notices to add to the cheerfulness.

With regards to the Station Square



Blackthorn flowers

area, there is a new initiative to make some improvements to what could be a useful outdoor hub. Anyone who has ideas, or better still time, please make yourself known to anyone on LFCA.

The snowdrops have been lovely in Auntie's Wood and the little wild daffodils are spreading around the edge. I do believe that there might be an increasing show of bluebells later, not quite a "haze", but to all those that braved the cold planting them, keep the faith!

Anyone who goes into Cambridge, especially by bus, will have seen the mistletoe on trees around Churchill College. I thought it would be fun to see if we could have some on Love's Farm. Apple trees are its favourite host — it is a parasite, getting its nutrients directly from the host tree without its own roots — but not exclusively.

So if you see me up a tree, or later some coloured wool around a branch, please look but don't touch



A cherry bud appearing on a tree trunk



Midland Hawthorn in bud, a bit ahead of its May flowering

because I have some mistletoe babies arriving soon! Like bluebells, I'm told they take several years to get established, so it may be kissing en plein air for years before we can cut our own Christmas supply!

Blackthorn is just beginning to flower, to produce sloes for your gin and I spotted a Midland hawthorn with buds. Soon there will be blossom everywhere and the creepy crawlies will come out in time to feed our baby birds... Spring is nearly upon us.

phyllis.hooper@btinternet.com
07709 903249

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
  ourlovesfarm

Love's Farm House

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
  lovesfarmhouse

Town Councillors

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

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 njfitnessandmassage@outlook.com,
www.njfitnessandmassage.com.

Baby Sensory

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

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

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

Arty Kids

Ages 5-10.
www.poco-imagework.com/artykids

Little Loves

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

Silver Rock Craft Club

Ages 5+. Contact Jo on
silver-rock@hotmail.co.uk

Baby Massage & Sensatots

Birth to 8 Months. Visit
www.facebook.com/thegoodsenseclasses

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

