

Love's Farm News

December 2024 - February 2025

www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk

Christmas on Love's Farm







(L-R) Chris and Marcus leading the Christmas Carols on Station Square, Love's Farm House volunteers serving up tasty treats at the Christmas Tree Pre Switch-on Party, while Raw Divas keep the crowds entertained with festive songs

Christmas is well and truly underway on Love's Farm.

The festive season kicked off on 24 November with a party at Love's Farm House. It was officially to mark the switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights on Stone Hill. Storm Bert meant that the outdoor celebrations had to move inside, but there was a huge turnout and everyone got into the Christmas spirit.

There was mulled wine and mince

pies at the café, plus music from Raw Divas and the Round House Choir. St Neots Youth Council and some young entrepreneurs had a wonderful selection of crafts on sale. Silver Rock Designs ran activities for children and there was a visit from Santa, our MP Ian Sollom and a naughty elf!

A big Thank You to everyone who made this event happen, and to our community for turning out in force.

The celebrations continue



The new Christmas tree on Stone Hill (courtesy of St Neots Town Council) is impressively sparkly.

throughout December — you'll find details throughout this edition of Love's Farm News.

Don't miss the Christmas Carols on Station Square on Friday 20 December at 7pm, followed by Christmas Cheers at the Farm House Bar. It's the perfect way to get in the mood for Christmas with friends from across the Love's Farm community.

New Faces for Love's Farm SMART Days

After 10 years in charge of our community litter pick initiative known to all of us as SMART Days, Helene,



The Schnetzinger family are taking over to lead our volunteer litter-pickers

who originally took over from Phyllis, is handing over to the wonderful Schnetzinger family. They have been faithful volunteers for a number of years and will provide younger, fresher faces to organise and cheer our efforts to keep our green places and shared spaces clear of litter. Helene will continue as a volunteer and assist them as they've assisted her and all of us.

Please continue to watch out for the banner (which goes up on the fence of the Pirate Ship park the Monday before our Saturday shift)



Helene (left) joins Phyllis in the exclusive club of SMART Coordinator Alumni

and social media posts advertising future SMART days. Helene's last SMART in charge is **14 December**.

Thank you to every single one of you who has ever picked litter during SMART or managed the spaces closest to your home/school so that Love's Farm continues to be kept as well as it is. It was Phyllis who would often say, "if we keep it cleared and clean it's more likely to stay that way" and for the most part that is true — so THANK YOU!

What's On at Love's Farm House

Thursday Brunch

| Thursdays, 11am-1pm (term-time)



Delicious, nutritious brunches on the menu on Thursdays at Love's Farm House

Autumn saw the start of our brunch service at Love's Farm House, with Loredana and Elisa cooking up treats (including some delicious Italian specialities), and the best reviews from our cafe customers. Dishes include soups, salads, quiches and the popular pasta dishes (cannelloni, lasagna and pasta bakes). All home-made from scratch with love.

The Farm House Bar

| Fridays from 7:45pm

On the third Friday of the month (although the second Friday in December) we have **Book Club** and **Board Games**.

The members of the book club are a welcoming bunch. You don't even need to have read the book to attend. Pop along on 13 December for their Christmas gathering, which includes a Book Swap (wrap one up and take

one home). Bring nibbles and some money for the bar. Keep an eye on www.facebook.com/groups/ lovesfarmbookclub for more details.

Whether you like your board games fun and easy, deep and complex, strategic or social, we have a game for you. Share one of your own, or play one of ours. Everyone's welcome, from beginner to expert, with friends or alone — we'll find a game for you to join.

Please note Board Games will take a break in December and return on 17 January.

Christmas Quiz at Love's Farm House

Friday 6 December, bar from 7.45 for a prompt start at 8pm

Get into the Christmas Spirit with the annual LFH/LFCA quiz! Bring your work team, friends or family (children are welcome to join, but must be with an adult) and gather for some festive fun. £1 per person and the winning team gets a prize. The bar will also be open with the usual alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. We look forward to seeing you.

Seasonal Poffertjes at Love's Farm House Cafe

| Tuesday 10 December, 9am-12noon

Join us at the Love's Farm House Café and indulge in Little Dutch Bites winter seasonal special Poffertjes topped with cinnamon and ginger, stewed apple with cream and



Little Dutch Bites will be serving up festive flavours at the café on 10 December

cinnamon sugar.

Christmas Carols and Christmas Cheers

| Friday 20 December, 7pm

Join the community of Love's Farm at Station Square on 20 December for the Annual Carol Sing-a-long.

Then head over to the Farm House Bar after to chat with friends over a mulled wine (full bar available including non-alcoholic options).

Non Love's Farm folk welcome as always — see you there!

Backstage Cabaret

| Friday 24th January 8pm-11pm

Following the initial success of Cabaret Night at Love's Farm House, join us Backstage for a night of Musical Theatre live performances, sing along to Broadway bangers and a show tunes disco as a grand finale! Lia, Caroline and Lynne can't wait to you entertain you. It's for One Night Only so don't miss it!

Over 18s only. Tickets cost £20 from www.lovesfarmhouse.com or on the



Join Caroline, Lynne and Lia for an evening of cabaret entertainment

door, and include a welcome drink.

International Women's Day

| Friday 7 March, 8pm

International Women's day is on 8 March, and what better way to celebrate a day early than to join in and discuss all things women. Everyone is welcome whatever your pronoun. Let's celebrate together! This year, we're bringing our community together to honour the strength, resilience and achievements of women from all walks of life. Whether you're here to support, share your story or learn from the incredible experiences of others, there's something for everyone. Let's stand together for empowerment, equality and change. Bring your friends and family, and let's make this evening memorable!

Paint and Sip

| Friday 14 March, 7.45pm

Come and paint your very own Emu at the next Paint and Sip event. Support the bar by buying a drink while the paint dries! Tickets available at www.thepaintclub.co.uk

Annual Family Valentines Ball

Keep hold of your fancy Christmas frocks and suits for the 2025 Valentines Ball. What better place to celebrate the international day of love, than at Love's Farm!

Drop us a message at bookings@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk if you would like to share your ideas and be part of the planning & hosting!

Lets share the love.

Update from our AGMs

A fantastic evening was had by all at the joint annual general meetings

of LFCA and Love's Farm House, where business met fun in the best possible way. We transformed the agenda into an enjoyable experience with games, puzzles, prizes and gifts to show our appreciation. Teams competed to complete a jigsaw puzzle without the image of the final result. A few drinks later, the night shifted from business to simply

enjoying good company after a long week.

Use this QR code if you'd like to see the LFH annual reports.







The winning team of jigsaw puzzlers at the LFCA and Love's Farm House AGM

Celebrating the People Who Makes Things Happen

Our AGM is an opportunity to thank the people who work so hard to make our community thrive, and to welcome new volunteers to the team.

Andy Hill stood down as a trustee and chair of Love's Farm House, and fellow trustees Eleanor Parkin, Rachel Bundy, Zoe Lancet and Alaistair McKenzie have decided it's their time to move on. The team — and the whole community — thanks them for their dedicated service

Sarita Mal and **Sam Booker** have joined the trustee board — welcome!

The charity treasurer Mark Kipping moves into the role of chair, with Lara Davenport Ray as vice-chair, Emma Wootton as treasurer and Maria Russo continuing as secretary. Huge thanks to them all.

Jenny Bishop was awarded Volunteer of the Year in recognition of the massive contribution she has made over the past decade.

Jenny has gifted her time and

experience to our community, above and beyond the call of duty, We are especially grateful for her dedication to our community centre. Without her professionalism, diligence and care, the heart of our community would not have survived its first ten years of operation. Because of her hard work, we have a place to meet together and celebrate our community.

It's been a challenging couple of years for Love's Farm House, but the future is looking bright thanks to our wonderful volunteers and staff.

A special mention goes to **Arwen Stapleton** for stepping up every time we needed her most, and to **Sarita Mal** for her enthusiasm and helping us steady the boat.

LFCA said a heartfelt thanks to its outgoing chair **Lara Davenport-Ray**, secretary **Eiman El Banhawy** and Street Rep coordinator **Caz Henderson**. You are all wonderful!

They leave our community association in the capable hands of **Sam Booker** as chair, **Jennifer Ogilvie** as secretary and **Emma Wright** looking after Street Reps and newsletter delivery.



Lara (right) presents Jenny Bishop with the Volunteer of the Year Award



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There's Always Room for More...

Love's Farm House is excited to see new people stepping up to plan and host events. We're especially looking forward to building a lineup of activities and events to celebrate our 10th birthday in 2025.

In the past, volunteers have organised everything from cinema nights and comedy shows to wine & cheese gatherings. They've also contributed their incredible skills in other ways—like Eleanor's beautiful artwork for the recent Christmas Light switch on party and Rachel's expertise in health and safety at the CPR & DeFib awareness session. Whatever your passion

or talent, we want to hear from you.

And if events aren't your thing but you're looking for other ways to contribute your time — whether through volunteer hours you may get from work, or just by giving back to your community — we'd love to hear from you. Here are a few areas where we could use support:

Social Media Savvy? If you've got a knack for social media, we'd love help showcasing what we do and getting our message across to more people. Got a project or campaign in mind? Let's talk! We're keen to reach all the demographics in Love's Farm.

Human Resources Skills? If HR is your bread and butter, we'd love your



expertise. We're always looking for ways to support and improve the experience for both staff and volunteers.

Tech Enthusiast? If you're in the tech world and could help us upgrade our website, leverage APIs, or just improve our digital presence, we're all ears!

Already in a Group? If you're part of a local group or community initiative and see opportunities for collaboration, let's connect!

Let's work together to create even more opportunities to bring the community together. If any of these areas interest you, or if you have your own ideas, reach out to us at trustees@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk. Let's make it happen!

New Chairs at Love's Farm House and LFCA

The Annual General Meetings for Love's Farm Community Association and Love's Farm House saw the appointment of new chairs to both organisations. We invited them to introduce themselves.

Mark Kipping



I have lived on Love's Farm since moving to St Neots in May 2019, and first became a Trustee after meeting fellow residents at a Love's Farm House "Whisky Night". I have served as Treasurer for the last five years, helping to guide the charity through a turbulent economic climate. I am a qualified accountant but also have over 10 years' previous experience working in social care, supporting a diverse range of vulnerable people. I also managed my own café for a few years. I love the sense of community that we have and want to celebrate this as we enter our tenth anniversary year.

Sam Booker



My name is Sam and I am the new chair of LFCA.

After moving to Love's Farm last year, I was impressed by the wonderful sense of

community here and this is exactly what made me want to get involved with the community association.

Following on from the great work done by Lara and Marcus as chairs of LFCA, I aim to continue helping to make Love's Farm the best place to live in St Neots. My personal motto is "listen first, speak second" and this is exactly what I aim to do as LFCA chair. Please email me at chair@ourlovesfarm.co.uk if there's anything I can help you with or anything you would like the community association to look at.

Grants Available for Community Projects on Love's Farm

LFCA continues to make a visible impact around Love's Farm. If you're involved in the running of a group that is of benefit to the Love's Farm community, we can raise small grants to help. Visit www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk/grants for details.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Classes

Are you learning English? Do you want to improve your English

language skills?

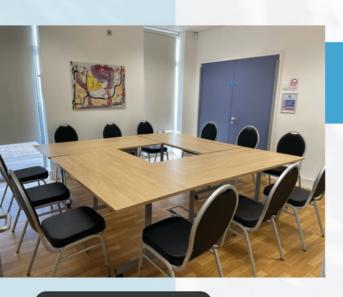
We want to run English classes at Love's Farm House so please tell us if you are interested using the QR code



it only takes a few minutes.

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 call 01480 262626 (9am-3pm Mon-Fri) or email bookings@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk.



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Get In Touch

Love's Farm News

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Love's Farm Community Association (LFCA)

info@ourlovesfarm.co.uk Chair: Sam Booker chair@ourlovesfarm.co.uk www.ourlovesfarm.co.uk J G ourlovesfarm



Bookings and general enquiries (Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm): Arwen 01480 262626. bookings@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk

Chair: Mark Kipping chair@lovesfarmhouse.co.uk www.lovesfarmhouse.com Jovesfarmhouse

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

Member of Parliament

Ian Sollom MP. ian.sollom.mp@parliament.uk, www.iansollom.org

Financial Difficulties

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

Breakfast Church

www.lovesfarmchurch.com facebook.com/LovesFarmChurch

BPHA

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

Baby Massage, Lift Lean, Zumba, Fitness Pilates & Fit Mum

Contact Nicola at njfitness andmassage@outlook.com, www.njfitnessandmassage.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 7-13. Email enquiries@stneots-tc.gov.uk for more information

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. facebook.com/ littlelovesbabyandtoddlergroup www.lovesfarmchurch.com.

GPC Mixed Martial Arts

Visit www.gpcmma.com.

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

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

The Good Sense Antenatal & Baby Classes

www.goodsenseantenatal andbabyclasses.com

Junior Youth Club

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

Love's Farm Book Club

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

Street Dance / Dance Workshops

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

2nd St Neots Beavers,

Cubs and Scouts

tinyurl.com/lovesfarmcubs

Pregnancy Relaxation

Contact Jessica at wholebirthandbeyond @amail.com www.wholebirthandbeyond.co.uk

Sunday

1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Lift Lean 6.15-7pm Zumba 7.05-7.50pm Fitness Pilates 8-9pm	* Farm House Cafe 9am-12noon *BPHA 9.30am-12noon Baby Massage with NJ Fitness 9.35-10.20am Rainbows 4.50-5.50pm Pilates 6pm, 7pm, 8pm	Fitmum 9.35-10.20am Fitness Pilates 10.30-11.30am *Youth Cafe 3.30-5pm Karate 5.30-7pm Broadway Boogie 7-8pm	*Farm House Cafe 9am-1pm *Little Loves 9.30-10.30am NHS - Immunisations 9am-5pm Brownies 6-7.30pm	Baby Massage & Sensateenies 9am-12noon Youth Club 5.45pm-7pm *Love's Farm Annual Christmas Quiz 7.45pm £1 entry, prompt start at 8pm	*Lazy Breakfast Cafe 9am-11.15am Street Dance 9.15am, 9.45am, 10.30am, 11am	*Breakfast Church 10-11.30am
Lift Lean 6.15pm-7pm Zumba 7.05-7.50pm Fitness Pilates 8-9pm	* Farm House Cafe 9am-12noon Baby Massage with NJ Fitness 9.35-10.20am Rainbows 4.50-5.50pm Pilates 6pm, 7pm, 8pm	Fitness Pilates 10.30-11.30am *Youth Cafe 3.30-5pm Karate 5.30-7pm Broadway Boogie 7-8pm	*Farm House Cafe 9am-1pm *Little Loves 9.30-10.30am NHS - Immunisations 9am-5pm Brownies 6-7.30pm Guides 7.30-9pm	Youth Club 5.45pm-7pm *Love's Farm Bar 7.45-late Book Club Christmas gathering, bring nibbles & a wrapped book to swap. Bar is open!	*Lazy Breakfast Cafe 9am-11.15am Street Dance 9.15am, 9.45am, 10.30am, 11am	*Breakfast Church 10-11.30am
Diabetes Clinic - NHS 11.30-3pm Lift Lean 6.15pm-7pm Zumba 7.05-7.50pm Fitness Pilates 8-9pm	* Farm House Cafe 9am-12noon Baby Massage with NJ Fitness 9.35-10.20am Rainbows 4.50-5.50pm Pilates 6pm, 7pm, 8pm	*Youth Cafe 3.30-5pm Karate 5.30-7pm	*Farm House Cafe 9am-12pm *Farm House Christmas Brunch 11am-1pm *Little Loves 9.30-10.30am NHS - Immunisations 9am-5pm	Mama Baby Bliss Xmas specials: Kiddybliss 10-10.45 am Baby yoga 11.15-12.15pm *Christmas Cheers! 7pm in the square then drinks & Karaoke at the Farm House	*Lazy Breakfast Cafe 9am-11.15am Street Dance 9.15am, 9.45am, 10.30am, 11am	*Breakfast Church 10-11.30am
23	24	*Christmas morning with Breakfast Church 10.30-11:30am	26	27		29
		Events are at Love's Farm House foyer, hall or meeting room.				

advance.

Events with a * mean just turn up. For others, please book in