

Parish e-bulletin: Issue 3 – 15 January 2015

Welcome to the third edition of our parish e-bulletin. It includes information and news from across Cambridgeshire County Council that you may want to discuss and pass on to your residents. Please also feel free to pass this onto editors of your village newsletter.

Community Reach Fund

You can apply for up to £1000 from the Community Reach Fund to create positive activities for 0-19's and their families (up to 25 for young people with special educational needs or disabilities). There is no deadline as the fund is open all year round, so please contact your Youth and Community Coordinators (below) for an application form.

South Cambs Amanda.Silvester@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

East Cambs Darryl.Mcmurray@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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Could you make a difference in 2016?

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched a campaign to urge anyone hoping to make a difference to the lives of others in 2016 to consider becoming a foster carer.

Across the county there is currently particular need for more people to care for older children and teenagers and more carers who are able to offer a home to two or more children from the same family are also needed to help prevent brothers and sisters being separated while they are in care.

We welcome enquiries from people aged 21 and over who have a spare room in their home and feel they have the time, commitment and skills needed to foster.

To find out more, you can book a space at one of our forthcoming events, or request an information pack. Please call 0800 052 0078 or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering.

New recycling video launched

Over the festive period, the Household Recycling Centres have been busy as residents have been bringing along old items - which have then either been recycled or are available in the centres' resale areas.

For example, in the last couple of weeks the following have been left: a Clay pigeon trap, a marble clock, an aluminium drinks bar, two pairs of skis and a dining room table.

To help residents know what can be taken to the centres, how they work and the help which is available, a new film has been launched and can be seen at www.recap.co.uk.

The film - which sees the return of animated characters first seen in local waste education videos last year - explains how to make the best use of the centres in Cambridgeshire and help to reduce the amount of waste which goes to landfill.

Currently the centres recycle 79 per cent of the materials which are taken there, reuse over 475 tonnes of good quality items, and have 22,400 visitors during an average week.

Be prepared for winter and beat the cold

Winter conditions can be seriously bad for our health, especially for those aged 65 or more, under 5 years old, and for people who have an ongoing health problem.

The cold weather can increase the risk of raising blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes.

People with chest conditions are at particular at risk of becoming ill during periods of cold and damp weather, ice, snow and high winds.

But there are lots of things you can do to stay well this winter. Read below our simple tips about keeping warm and well.

- **Heat the home well:** Heat the home to a minimum of 18°C (65°F), and make sure you are dressed appropriately for the weather. Above this and people may be wasting money; below this and there is a risk health. This will keep the home warm and may lower the bills

- **Get financial support:** there are grants, benefits and sources of advice available to make the home more energy efficient, improve the heating, or help with bills. [Find out about Warm Homes Grants for vulnerable individuals and families](#)
- **Eat well and have plenty of fluids:** food and water are vital sources of energy; they help keep a person's body warm. People should make sure they and their family have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day.
- **Get a flu jab:** certain groups can get free flu jabs to protect against seasonal flu, including the over 65s, pregnant women, people with a long term illness or if someone is the main carer of an elderly or disabled person. [Free flu jabs are available from your GPs and some pharmacies.](#)
- **Look after yourself and others:** on cold days try to avoid going outside. If a person does need to venture out, they need to wrap up warm and take care on slippery surfaces. Look out for an older or vulnerable neighbour or relative during this winter to make sure they are safe and well.

For further local information on staying warm and well this winter, including grants call 0345 6500 280.

Clean for the Queen

In the run up to The Queen's 90th birthday on 21 April 2016, the Clean for the Queen aims to inspire a million people to take action and enjoy a few hours together litter-picking to make the places where we live more beautiful.

All of the litter charities across the country have come together in support of this campaign together with a growing range of companies, land managers and associations.

There will be 'Clean for The Queen' litter blitzes throughout the UK in January, February and March, and the most monumental of all litter clear-ups from **Friday 4 to Sunday 6 March 2016.**

They really want local community groups on board who can sign up to organise a clean-up through the 'Clean for The Queen' website. Lots more will be announced over the coming weeks, as the national campaign builds up a head of steam.

Let's Clean for The Queen.

For more information and to sign up go to www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk

Email: adrian@cleanforthequeen.co.uk

#DanTheFraudster

Please could you pass on a warning to residents about fraudsters calling residents trying to get personal information and claiming they are from the County Council.

They have been ringing residents across the County and say they are calling about an accident and may claim they have had the information from the NHS.

They have gone by several names, including Daniel, but usually hang up when challenged.

Please help us stop anybody being tricked by Dan and his friends by sharing this alert.

Our advice to residents is always this:

If someone says they are from the County Council, get their name and tell them you will call them back. Phone our General Enquiries line on 0345 045 5200 and ask to be put through to the named officer.

- Be wary of all unsolicited calls. They might start by asking about 'your recent accident' or 'your recent fall' or 'your claim for PPI' or 'your computer problems'. They say it to everyone. They don't know you.
- Don't ever give out any personal or financial information over the phone.

Farms for rent

Future farmers and entrepreneurs are being offered the exciting and life changing chance to start their own rural business in the Cambridgeshire countryside from October 2016

Cambridgeshire County Council's Farms Estate, the largest of its kind in England and Wales at over 33,000 acres, has four holdings looking for new tenants

The tenancies include:

- Ransonmoor II Farm, near March comprises a single block of fertile root growing land totalling 287 acres, including ranges of buildings and a modern 3 bedroom bungalow.

- Plantation Farm, near Ramsey, totals 197 acres of fen soils with a range of buildings and a 3 bedroom bungalow.
- Longfield Farm, on the edge of Cambridge, extends to 141 acres of combinable land with the option of a 3 bedroom farmhouse.
- Stonebridge Farm, near March is a 7 acre holding offering an opportunity to create a range rural enterprises.

These holdings provide a valuable opportunity for interested parties either to take their first steps on the farming ladder or to progress onto larger farms.

The Council is holding an open viewing day on 12 February, with business plans from applicants due by 4 March. Full details are available on the Council's website

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/countyfarms

Unanimous agreement to keep streetlights on longer

Members of Highways and Community Infrastructure have agreed to support extending streetlights staying on until 2am instead of the planned midnight switch-off after hearing the results and proposals of a public survey.

The Council is looking to follow the lead of more than 60 councils across the country, which have already turned off or dimmed street lights, which would have saved around £260,000 from an annual cost of over £1.4m a year.

Councillors also heard around nine councils, including Cambridge City Council, have come forward to offer to fund the lights staying on after the proposed switch off time.

This means the committee are recommending to Full Council:

To increase the current period of streetlight dimming (8pm or 10pm until 6am) to all times and turning off lighting not on main traffic routes between 2am and 6am where it is controlled by the Council's Central Management System;

The Council is not proposing to turn off lighting on main traffic routes, where CCTV cameras are present, where there are any statutory requirements or where they support the night time economy.

The Committee heard that the changed time means the Council would have to find an extra £98,000 from efficiencies.