

The Wintringham 
wagtail

The Wintringham Newsletter

Issue 2 Autumn/Winter 2021



Going wild in Wintringham!

Taking a closer look at this summer's Wild Wintringham ecology event with Mike Dilger.

Active travel

Helping you stay healthy and active for less

Join the conversation

Have your say in shaping the future of St Neots' High Street

Bringing history to life

Shining a light on St Neots' award-winning museum

Welcome to the second issue of the Wintringham Wagtail and a very warm welcome to new residents who have joined the Wintringham community!

Time has flown by this year, and I would also like to congratulate those who are about to celebrate their one year anniversary in their new home!



For those who I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, I am Urban&Civic's Community Development Lead at Wintringham. I'm here to support new residents as they move in and also help create and shape a community you are proud to be part of.

We now have around 50 houses occupied at Wintringham amongst CALA and Morris Homes and have more families moving in soon. We also look forward to welcoming new residents next year as Durkan and Barratt/David Wilson Homes start to take shape and new neighbours join our thriving community.

I hope you have enjoyed the community events and activities over the last few months - from pond dipping with BBC's wildlife expert Mike Dilger to sharing some cocktails and food in the sun at our pop up street food events. Next up, we will be sharing some historic finds with you at our heritage event on 23 October and will be helping everyone get into the Christmas spirit on The Plaza in December! We are planning next year's events too and as always welcome your thoughts on what you would like to see happening at Wintringham!

It was great to see you at our Residents' Forum last month and have the opportunity to meet one another and our community partners in person! We will hold our next one in early 2022 and welcome feedback on the things you would like to talk about.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any queries about local facilities, services, activities or community groups, or if you would like help to set up something new. You can contact me via email, on the number below or arrange to pop and see me at our new Urban&Civic office based on Nuffield Road next to the school! I am always interested to hear how you are settling in and how I can best support you.

With very best wishes

Christine

Christine.littlewood@urbanandcivic.com
07384 816725



Issue 2 highlights

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Spotlight: St Neots Museum

Sign up to receive new information and updates at wintringham.org



Phase 1 North update



Construction is underway.
 Show home launching March 2022.
 First residents moving in
 May/June 2022.



The new Urban&Civic offices on Nuffield Road

1 Durkan
 Durkan will deliver 293 new homes (1 and 2 bedroom apartments as well as 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses) within easy walking distance of the primary school and planned District Centre, tree lined streets and a landscaped central square for residents to meet and enjoy some quiet time in a tranquil setting. It will also complete the frontage along Cambridge Road and create a welcoming eastern gateway for Wintringham.

2 Barratt/ David Wilson Homes
 Barratt/ David Wilson Homes has submitted an application for 336 homes (1 bedroom to 4 bedroom dwellings, with 67 coming forward as part of the Affordable Housing offer at Wintringham, which includes shared ownership as well as “affordable rented” homes) along with a linear park and pocket park, which are a core part of the active connections and green space within the designs, and will connect to the wider green spaces across Wintringham.

3 New Urban&Civic office
 The Wintringham project team will be based in our new office on Nuffield Road. Please feel free to arrange a time to come and see Christine to ask any questions, find out more about Wintringham and the surrounding area or just pop in for a chat to let her know how you’re settling in!

4 District Centre consultation
 Keep an eye out for our online consultation and drop-in sessions about the future community hub, the ‘District Centre’. We’ll be sharing the early designs, so you can let us know what you think and help shape your local centre (see p14).

Leisure routes
 Hopefully you have had a chance to explore the new information boards which guide you on walking and cycling routes around Wintringham. They also share interesting facts about the history and ecology around you – including our cheery friend and resident, the Wagtail, who has given us the name of this newsletter!



Exploring nature on your doorstep

Wintringham has been designed to have nature around you wherever you look. As the development rolls out, the pockets of woodland will be joined by grassland, wild meadow areas and water connections of the Brooks to create green corridors to help you and local wildlife get about safely.

The Wild Wintringham ecology event in July, provided an opportunity to explore some of these areas with naturalist and BBC's The One Show presenter Mike Dilger. Mike guided us around the green spaces, ponds and natural habitats that are home to a variety of wildlife.



Families were invited to take part in a range of activities throughout the weekend including:



Good Morning Mammals and Moths: an early morning check on the wildlife that paid us a visit during the night.



Pond Dipping: to discover what's hidden in and around the water and the amazing creatures you can find.



Wild Walks: guided walks with Mike to explore both butterfly, bird and bug hunts, and a bat spotting walk in the evening.

If you weren't able to join us at Wild Wintringham but would like to find out more about the nature on your doorstep, you can listen to the Ecology at Wintringham podcast: www.wintringham.org/podcasts/.

We hope to welcome Mike back next year to help more residents explore the local wildlife.

An update from our local partners



Tracy Bryden
Headteacher of Wintringham Primary Academy

It was fabulous to see all our wonderful children back in school after the summer holidays and to welcome some new children to the school. They all looked so smart in their uniforms and it was a great relief that, on the whole, we are back to normal in school. We are now able to take children from Reception up to Year 4 and are looking forward to welcoming more new faces as Wintringham grows.

I am also delighted to let you all know that we have finally opened our Pre-school, following several delays due to the pandemic. The Pre-school room looks very inviting and the children have all settled in so well. Please see our website www.wintringhamprimary.co.uk for more information.

Our inspiring school building was recently nominated for an award at the Construction News Building Awards in London and received a highly commended award. It is truly a building to be proud of.

Wintringham Primary Academy was recently featured in the Observer, in an article by Architecture Critic Rowan Moore.

You can see the article here: www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2021/sep/12/wintringham-primary-academy-st-neots-cambridgeshire-drm-urban-and-civic



Cllr Stephen Ferguson
Mayor of St Neots and Town & County Councillor for St Neots East



stephen.ferguson@stneots-tc.gov.uk

In my role as Mayor, I often get called on to make impromptu speeches. Most of these aren't very interesting, but earlier this week I had a moment of inspiration when I found myself blurting out: "I moved to St Neots because of the beautiful scenery, but it's the wonderful sense of community spirit that makes me never want to leave."

It happens to be true. I've lived in a lot of places, but nowhere comes close to St Neots (and especially St Neots East) when it comes to fostering a sense of community. This is why I was very happy to see that Wintringham is forming its own fledgling community association.

If you have the opportunity, I suggest that you come along to one of their meetings and get involved in influencing the future direction of the Wintringham community. I'm going to try to attend most of those meetings (as long as I'm still invited), so if you want to say hi and discuss any local issues then I'd love to have a chat with you.

I hate to mention Christmas this early in the year, but if you are new to St Neots it is worth putting 28th November in your diary, which is when the whole town meets in Market Square to witness the switching on of our festive lights. Urban&Civic has kindly sponsored the event, which will involve music, food, a funfair and fireworks, and having missed last year's event because of the pandemic, St Neots is overdue a community celebration!

The Wintringham community is already having a significant influence on the whole of St Neots. You might have heard that the Government recently confirmed that St Neots will receive a "Future High Streets Fund" investment that is intended to reinvigorate Market Square and the Priory Quarter. The total investment is £12.5 million, the biggest ever in a Huntingdonshire town, with some of that money supported by the Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers such as Urban&Civic who are supporting the growth of St Neots through developments like Wintringham. Your community is already significantly benefitting the whole of St Neots. For more information on the Future High Streets Fund, see page 10.

Helene Tame
Community Chaplain, Love's Farm



community.chaplain@yahoo.co.uk

I was watching a TV advert the other day for a telephone network - the strapline at its conclusion was, 'Life needs a big network'. And that's true - for the vast majority of us doing life well will mean being connected - having a network of friends, family and neighbours, people we can call on, or to whom we can be available. We value our independence and securing our own home can be a big part of that but nevertheless 'Life needs a big network.'

I don't know how many of you have relocated to Wintringham from outside the area or have just moved across town into your new home, but I really am convinced that either way Life needs a network. As a nation we tend to be more reserved than other cultures, but we also tend to struggle more with loneliness.

I wonder if I could tell you a story from a few years back. At the time my family and I were living on a long busy street in Cambridge - which didn't make neighbourliness easy. And then a tragedy hit just six doors down from us and a young man died. I realised that if the police had asked me to confirm the name of the man living in the house I wouldn't have known and that just didn't feel right. So, I wrote to the houses immediately around us, around 20 in all, acknowledged the recent death and my own sadness at not even knowing the young man's name and suggested that maybe there was some work for us to do to build community among our stretch of homes. I asked my neighbours to come to our home for a drink if that resonated. All bar one household did, and we formed our own mini residents' group, meeting several times a year for socials and committing to come first to one another if we needed anything.

It was lovely to meet a few of you at the recent Wintringham Residents Forum, and to listen to some of the team from Urban&Civic explain what's happening next and how they're responding to some of the current challenges, ranging from trees to transport infrastructure proposals. It was also great to hear one or two of those present express a desire to start a residents' community association. Being deliberate about investing in your own emerging community will make a huge difference to the quality of the community forming, so let me encourage you to do life with your neighbours and to build a big network - don't wait for Christmas, exchange a greeting today!

Go well.

St Neots News: an update from the Future High Streets Fund Team



It is an exciting time for St Neots Town Centre as it is about to benefit from a significant programme of investment, which will transform the market town for the benefit of local people, businesses and visitors.

The government invited bids for Future High Streets Funding from unitary authorities, metropolitan districts, London boroughs and, where there is a two-tier system, from district councils, in England. The funding guidance stipulated that the government would only accept bids covering town centre areas facing significant challenges.

Huntingdonshire District Council could have applied for any of its market towns. St Neots was selected as it was identified as a town in need of investment that could benefit most from the fund. Other factors taken into consideration included St Neots' growing population, the town's connectivity and challenges facing the town centre including the declining footfall and the challenge of competing with online shopping.

With £12.8 million of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Future High Streets Fund, Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority will deliver six projects. These projects will improve public spaces, deliver a sustainable future for the Priority Centre and acquire the Falcon Inn. The successful delivery of these projects will strengthen the local economy, attract people to the town centre, increase footfall and the amount of time people spend in the High Street, and improve access in and around the town centre.

You can find out more about the funding and the projects at www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/FHSF

As the Future High Streets Team work on developing and designing the six projects, we want to engage with local people about their vision for the town centre, the improvements they want to see and what they need the town centre to be in the future.

Whilst decisions have been made about the projects that funding will be used for, we still need to hear from local people about their aspirations for the town and the outcomes they would like to see each of the projects deliver. Conversations with local people will help to shape and inform decisions around the projects alongside best practice, learning from other market towns and the St Neots Masterplan. The Future High Streets Project will last until 2025 and during that time there will be a whole range of events and activities for local people to take part in.

During October, we'll be delivering a programme of focus groups to talk to people about the public spaces projects including the Market Square enhancement and the High Street improvements. If you'd be interested in taking part, please email FHSF@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or call, WhatsApp or text Sarah from the project team on **07951 384 263**.

If you're not interested in joining a focus group but would like to be kept up to date and invited to other events, you can join the Future High Streets Funding mailing list by getting in touch with us by email or phone.

St Neots Museum

St Neots' award-winning museum tells the story of the busy market town on the River Great Ouse, from prehistoric times to the present day.

The museum opened in 1995 and, from small beginnings, now attracts over 11,000 visitors a year and won Cambridgeshire's coveted Best Small Museum Award in 2019.

The Museum is located in St Neots town centre in the Victorian police station and Magistrates Court, with Edwardian police cells that visitors can experience. Its education programme reaches out to all the schools in the area, as well as hosting sessions for pre-school, family and adult learning.

The museum collects information, objects and photographs relating to St Neots and the surrounding villages, and the permanent displays bring to life the history of the area. The permanent displays feature hands-on activities for children as well as an active programme of temporary exhibitions. It also runs a hugely popular, seasonal 'escape room' experience.

The museum has a thriving shop, featuring arts and crafts by local sellers. Proceeds from the shop sales help to support the museum.

Liz Davies, the curator at St Neots Museum, said: "We're very proud of the fascinating insight the St Neots Museum provides into the town's past and hope Wintringham residents will pay a visit to find out more about how the town has developed through the ages. We're really looking forward to Wintringham's Heritage Day on 23 October and look forward to seeing many of you there."

Museum and shop opening times: 11.00am to 4.00pm Tuesday to Saturday. Admission is free to local residents.

Find out more about Wintringham's Heritage Day on 23 October on page 15.



Upcoming Events

- **7 October to 16 December**
St Neots Ghost Walk - 7.30-9pm
- **14 October to 22 December**
Crime & Punishment Walks - 7.30-9pm
- **27 to 29 October**
Spooky Masks Workshop - 11am-3pm
- **30 October**
Ghostly Halloween Event - 7.30-9.30pm
- **23 October to 24 December**
Winter Craft & Gift Fair - 11am-4pm
- **23 & 24 December**
Christmas Angels Workshop - 11am-3pm

Find out more and book events at www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk

Discovering Wintringham's past



As part of the site preparation work, extensive archaeological investigations were carried out to help us understand how pre-historic residents would have lived here and ensure their story is reflected in the design and features of the new development.

This is already evident in the design of the new primary school; a round, timber building that pays tribute to the roundhouses of Wintringham's earliest Iron Age settlers.



Archaeological excavations started at the north of the site, adjacent to Cambridge Road and, evidence has been found of several later Iron Age (c. 400-100 BC) roundhouses, which would have been home to families who lived on the site over 2,500 years ago.

Early investigations have also uncovered a range of artefacts including pottery and coins that help identify potential areas of previous inhabitation at Wintringham dating back to the Neolithic period (c. 4000 - 2200 BC) through to the end of the Romano-British period in the early 5th century.



The presence of ridge and furrow earthworks demonstrates that the area continued to be used for agriculture into the medieval and post-medieval periods. It has also been fascinating to discover that in some cases, tracks and field boundaries from this period linked to similar features at the Loves Farm development.

More archaeological digs are planned, and we are hoping some of these can be opened up to members of the local community. There could also be opportunities to help wash artefacts and help catalogue them as the project progresses.

Other activities are likely to include open days, talks, pop-up exhibitions and online updates, which will provide opportunities to meet the archaeologists working on site, ask questions and find out more about these exciting discoveries on your doorstep.

The first one of these events - which will include some fascinating facts and finds from Wintringham and the surrounding area, as well as an Iron Age re-enactor - is taking place on Saturday, 23 October. See page 15 for more information.



Residents' Forum Update

Thank you to all those who attended our second Residents' Forum last month - in person! It was great to see many of you face to face at last and to have a chat with you afterwards over a drink.

We hope you felt informed about the latest news and development updates and it was great to have our partners Helene Tame and Cllr Ben Pitt there too to offer support to Wintringham residents. For those who couldn't make it this time, we hope to see you soon.

A few updates we shared as well as some answers to questions:



- John Keenan, our partner from Go Travel Solutions discussed sustainable travel plans and LocalGo incentives and discounts exclusively available for Wintringham residents, including money off bike equipment, bus travel and rail tickets. Don't forget to sign up to LocalGo to receive the latest news and deals (see details below).
- Update on Pelham Road junction with Cambridge Road. Concerns were raised over speeding along Cambridge Road. The road layout here is due to change, with the junction becoming a roundabout, several traffic calming measures being installed along Cambridge Road and a reduction in speed limits from 60 to 30 mph. This work is funded by both Urban&Civic and the Loves Farm Phase 2 (LFP2) development, and is scheduled to come forward with the LFP2 works - currently estimated as happening around

September 2022. In the meantime, the Urban&Civic team has been in discussion with the County Council Highways Team to explore if measures can be put in place ahead of these plans to respond to concerns. As an immediate action, the team has undertaken landscaping work to cut back some of the hedgerow that was concealing views along Cambridge Road. Additional measures, including signage, will be investigated and updates reported back to residents.

- Food Trucks - it was great to see the popularity of local food traders at our pop up street food events with our partners at Food Truck Revolution. We hope they will be back with a similar offering again in the spring and welcome your feedback to when you would like to see these events. Feedback at the Forum suggested Friday evenings would be good, with some interest in weekday coffee trucks too - please keep your feedback coming!
- The Forum had a good discussion about the timing and approach to setting up a community association. A thank you to residents who have taken up the lead on getting the first meeting in the diary.
- There were questions about some of the new trees that have not made it through the summer. Our next tree planting works come in October/November, so this will see planting of new woodland areas and the team will also replace existing trees as needed at the same time.

We will look to hold the next meeting in early 2022 and welcome views on whether you would like this face to face, or virtually, or a bit of both! We will also explore recording these so those who can't come can still catch up with the discussions. But do let us know what you think!

Get back in the saddle!

Wintringham has been designed to encourage cycling and, with St Neots train station only 1km from the CALA Homes sales office and 9km of cycle paths planned for the development, there will be many journeys that can be easily walked or cycled, so you can leave your car at home.

Are you interested in starting cycling? You're not alone.

- According to a Tredz survey of 2,000 adults in 2021, cycling is the third most popular form of exercise in the UK after walking/hiking and swimming.
- Since March 2020, retailers have seen sales grow by 60%, with one pound in every five spent on e-bikes.
- One in 20 people in the UK now own an e-bike.

E-bikes can seem expensive compared to normal cycles; however, if your employer has a cycle to work salary sacrifice scheme you can save up to 42% of the cost of a bike and accessories and many schemes now include e-bikes.

Alternatively, Urban&Civic has setup a LocalGo scheme for Wintringham residents that is free to join. It provides simple and easy access to various sustainable and active travel offers, such as a £50 cycle or bus voucher, 20% off home electric car charges or 15% off railcards.

To redeem any of the offers, all you need to do is register for LocalGo. To find out how, email info@localgo.co.uk



Wintringham's Community Hub - have your say

Early design concept for the District Centre at Wintringham



As Wintringham continues to grow we are making plans for the new development's future community hub, the District Centre, which will include a convenience store as well as a nursery, gym, library and community centre and café. There will also be a plaza/central space for people to meet and relax, with room around it for the future health centre and commercial space for new businesses and innovation.

As we start to develop plans for the District Centre, which will sit at the heart of Wintringham, we wanted to share our initial plans with you to ensure residents and neighbours have an opportunity to influence the emerging designs.

We are trialling a new online consultation approach to share our ideas and gather feedback in October and November, and we will be sharing the link to leave your feedback soon. There will also be a chance to talk to the Urban&Civic team about the early designs for the District Centre at a drop-in session in November - more details coming soon.

Please let us know what you think so we can use your comments to inform the final plans, which we are hoping to submit for formal consultation with the community and key partners before the end of the year.

If you have any queries, please get in touch with Christine, who will be able to help.

Discover the history beneath your feet

We look forward to welcoming you to Wintringham's Heritage Day from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 23 October at Wintringham Primary Academy.

We are partnering with Oxford Archaeology East to share with you exhibits and finds from both Wintringham and Loves Farm, as well as finds from the extensive archaeological investigations carried out for both the A14 and A428 improvements. Archaeologists will be on hand to chat to and present what has been discovered beneath us, with finds and stories dating back to the Iron Age and early Roman era.

St Neots Museum will also be there to showcase its wonderful exhibitions and events in the town centre and we'll have some activity sessions for children to get involved, so please come and enjoy a family day out with us!



Sparkling events to light up Christmas

St Neots Town Centre

- **Christmas Lights Switch On**
12-6pm on Sunday 28 November
- **Christmas Farm & Craft Markets**
8am-4pm on 11 & 18 December
- **New Christmas Lights for St Neots Town Centre** - we are excited to unveil our new display to the community
- **Best Dressed Shop Window** trail supporting independent businesses in town.



Wintringham Christmas Event on The Plaza (7pm on Friday 10 December)

Get in to the festive spirit and join us on The Plaza for a mulled wine or hot chocolate and enjoy the wonderful sounds of Christmas played by the Waterbeach Brass Band under the Wintringham Christmas tree!

Key Contacts

Hopefully you have had a chance to look through the Welcome Pack you received, and this should have a wealth of information about local facilities and amenities. Below is a handy summary of the key contacts you might find useful:

General maintenance

Including: grass cutting; clearing drains; gritting roads in winter; repairing street lighting; trimming hedges; and ensuring play area safety.

Managed by Encore Estate Management
01223 866980
info@encoreestates.co.uk

Housebuilders

Please contact your house builder with any queries about the new homes you have moved into, including outside lighting, electricity, water and network connections.

Wintringham community development and events

Including: community events; activities, facilities and new resident information.

Christine Littlewood,
Community Development Lead
Christine.littlewood@urbanandcivic.com
07384 816725

Employment and training

Support with recruitment, employment and training opportunities in the local area.

EDGE
01480 435654
info@sharpperskills.co.uk
sharpperskills.co.uk

Health

Lakeside St Neots provides GP services for 24,000 patients in and around St Neots. Please contact Reception to register as a new patient. If you have moved locally and are already registered at the practice, please remember to update your new address. If you are looking to register we urge all residents to do so in good time, as it can take some time to update and transfer medical records, and it is better to have this sorted out before you need to see a doctor.

01480 406677
lakeside.stneots@nhs.net

Please also refer to your Resident Welcome Pack for further information and contact details on local hospitals, dentists and healthcare providers, and a range of other facilities and services.

Health Walks

The Huntingdonshire Health Walks scheme is provided free as part of the national Walking for Health initiative.

The scheme runs a range of regular walks across the district including routes around the St Neots area in October. You can enjoy the walk at your own pace, but with the added benefit of being in the company of other walkers and trained walk leaders.

For more information and booking details please go to:
www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/leisure/health-walks/

Look out for issue 3
of The Wintringham
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