

Dry Drayton Newsletter

December 2023 – January 2024

Issue Number 475

What's happening to the Newsletter?

The future of the newsletter is currently unsure; we have a fantastic volunteer team who help produce it and deliver it to every household in the village and to families of children at the school. But no-one has (yet) come forward to take over as editor (though there has been some interest in being a 'guest editor' for an issue to try out the role). The School & Village Association, which publishes it, hopes the newsletter will continue in some form and is open to ideas about how this might happen. (See page 4.)

But there are other ways for the village to communicate and share news. We have a very informative village website at www.drydrayton.net and our webmaster also circulates village news emails to those who subscribe to receive them. If you'd like to get these, email webmaster@drydrayton.net and put the words 'Subscribe me to the village email list' in the subject line.

There is also a Dry Drayton Locals Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1886158478428662>. Again, this is a good source of local news and information about upcoming village events.

Inside this issue:

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VILLAGE CONTACTS

DRY DRAYTON LOCALS FACEBOOK GROUP <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1886158478428662>

DRY DRAYTON WEBSITE www.drydrayton.net

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Treasurer: Roger Swain Tel: 780409

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Coordinator Chris Turner. Tel 07766 255637

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Lizzie Coe: 07387 395296

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PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWS in Brief

Community Car Scheme news

Dry Dryton is part of a local community car scheme, a volunteer-run service that helps provide essential travel to people who do not have a car. It has been run for many years by Sheila Stephenson. But after a period of ill health and a spell in hospital, Sheila has retired from the scheme. We thank her for her dedication to the scheme over the years and we wish her all the best for the future.

As you will be aware, the car scheme is run entirely by volunteers who give their time freely, but whose expenses are covered. There are many aspects of the car scheme that need help and to keep this valuable service going to support those in need in our local community, we are continually looking for volunteers. If you have some spare time in your week, and enjoy engaging with people, then this friendly scheme may be of interest.

Obviously, having drivers is crucial, so help is always needed here. The scheme aims to assist anyone

who needs taking to essential destinations within a reasonable distance and who has no other means of transport. But there are other areas you can help with too. As we are a charity, we would welcome support with organising fundraising or catering for the occasional events we hold.

If you feel like helping with this valuable local service, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact one of our Co-ordinators:

Gill Stott 07464 069 483

Lizzie Coe 07387 395 296

Derek Evans 07464 052 521

READ MORE ABOUT THE CAR SCHEME ON THE WEBSITE AND HOW TO VOLUNTEER
www.DryDrayton.net/carshare.asp



December Coffee Morning

The Village Coffee Mornings on the first Wednesday of the month continue to be very successful. A big 'thank you' to all the volunteers who make this happen. If you are able to bake a cake or want to volunteer on the day, it would be great if you could email Una.sowerby@btinternet.com or Gil at Hemyghislaine@gmail.com so we can be more accurate in our cake and volunteer numbers each month. Thank you for your help in the community, it so appreciated.

The next coffee morning will be 10:00–12:00 on Wednesday 6th December. There will be a raffle and sale of Christmas cards and crafts in aid of Cambs College Riding for the Disabled Association. Regulars will remember the RDA Easter sale and raffle which was very generously supported by the village. We hope that our homemade Christmas gifts will prove just as popular.

NEWS in Brief

The newsletter – past and future?

As explained elsewhere, this may be the last edition of the newsletter for a while. The S&VA Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to Rachel Gardner and the whole production and delivery team for their efforts over the last few years which have produced a high quality and informative newsletter.

However, there will now be a pause until a new Editor steps forward. This is unfortunate, to say the least, as the newsletter has been produced since the 1970s. However, we recognise that times change and that people's readiness to take on some tasks have changed, especially with the availability of other channels of communication.

As the S&VA we would like to continue to support the

publication of information about village life. We have an open mind about what form this might take and so are interested in receiving suggestions and offers from interested people about other ways to do this. These could range from less frequent or smaller physical newsletters to guest editors taking control of individual newsletters to hybrid publications with a mix of virtual and physical newsletters.

These will be discussed at our committee meeting in December and at the AGM which will be held in February (date to be confirmed). Please keep an eye on the village emails and Facebook page for updates.

Neil Harris, Chair S&VA, drydraytonsva@gmail.com

Dry Drayton Friendship Club

The committee had to cancel the November meeting due to illness of two of the four active members.

The December meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

We have booked a caterer for the January meeting for lunch. This will be a delayed Christmas Lunch as the caterer is unable to come in December. This will take

place 12.00 for 12.30 Wednesday 17th January.

After this lunch Marlene will be standing down as committee organiser of the Friendship Club. If nobody is prepared to take a turn at one or all of these roles the Club will sadly have to shut down.

*Marlene Northrop
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email: marlene.northrop28@gmail.com*

Dry Drayton Village Newsletter is published on behalf of Dry Drayton School and Village Association (a registered charity, number 269765). Copies are delivered to houses in the village and the Newsletter is also published on the Dry Drayton website newsletter page: www.drydrayton.net/newsletter.asp

Please note, the Editor reserves the right to accept, edit or reject any material for publication and to exclude from publication any remarks which may be construed as personal criticism of other residents. The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial team of the School & Village Association, or of Victoire Press, the printers.

In between the monthly Newsletters you can keep up to date on village news by subscribing to the village e-mails created by our Dry Drayton webmaster. To do so, e-mail: webmaster@drydrayton.net

Village Advent Windows Trail!

Cut out your map, donate to the school, and follow the Dry Drayton Advent Window Trail



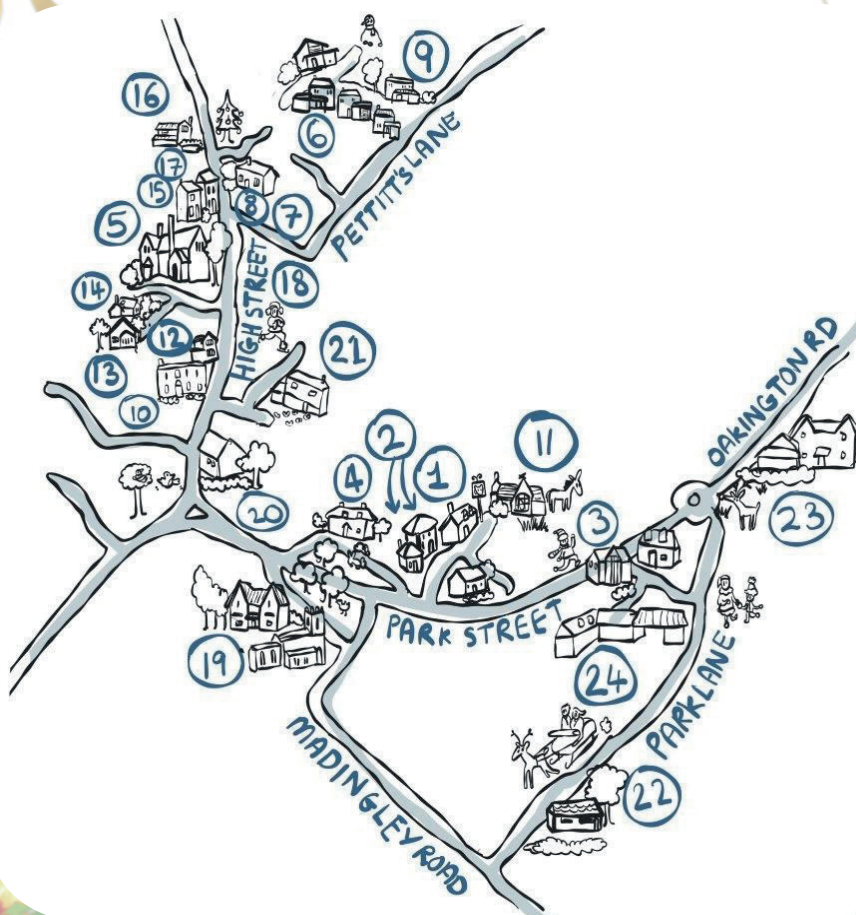
We have been delighted by the response we've received from villagers who have volunteered to decorate their windows for our first ever Dry Drayton Advent Trail. The Church, the school and the Village Hall are all taking part, and the Black Horse launched the first window on Friday the 1st of December. Every day another house (or two) in the village will display a decorated window as part of the trail. By Christmas Eve, all of the windows will be on display. You can cut out and follow the beautifully designed map that you will find in this newsletter to find the windows and admire the creativity of our residents. We are also encouraging anyone who is not already participating in the trail to decorate their windows and help light up Dry Drayton to make the season even more festive! All the windows on the official trail will be lit between 5pm and 8 pm each evening and will remain on display until the 2nd of January, so you should have plenty of time during the holidays to walk through the village and view the windows. And don't forget to scan the QR code (or visit www.justgiving.com/page/dry-drayton-school-trim-trail) to donate to the school's trim trail replacement fund.

Sponsored by the Dry Drayton S & VA, Registered Charity Number 269765



Advent Trail

2023 DRY DRAYTON MAP OF ADVENT CALENDAR WINDOWS



December



Please scan to donate
to the school's new
Trim Trail

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Black Horse Pub, Park Street	2 Park View House, Park Street & 49 Park Street	3 Orchard Barn House, Park Lane & 1 View Farm Cottage, Park Lane
4 15 Park Street	5 Village Hall, High Street	6 7 Pettitt's Close & 11 Pettitt's Close	7 5 Pettitt's Lane	8 1 Pettitt's Lane	9 2 Pettitt's Close & 61 Pettitt's Lane	10 5 High Street
11 Dry Drayton Primary School	12 15 High Street	13 10 Searle's Meadow	14 1 Searle's Meadow	15 45 High Street	16 57 High Street	17 49 High Street
18 48 High Street	19 Church & Church Farm Cottage	20 2 High Street	21 11 Cotton's Field	22 Favonius, Park Lane	23 28 Oakington Road	24 7 View Farm Close

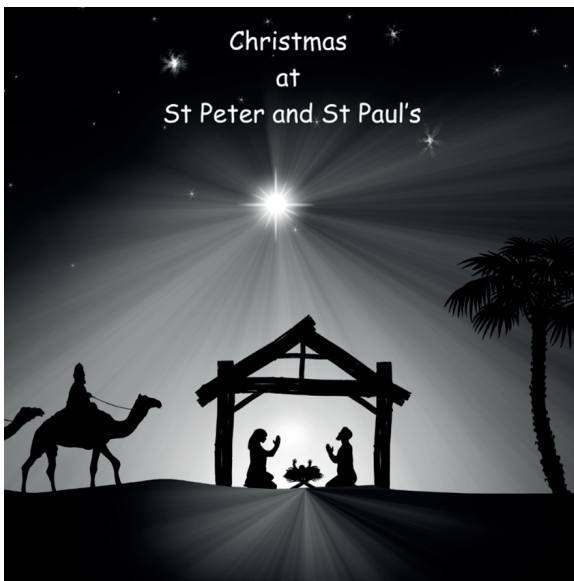


Dry Drayton Primary school were treated to a wonderful afternoon of entertainment on Children in Need Day. The variety of acts and talent in the school was astounding. We had singers, dancers, gymnasts, comedy acts, recitals, story reading, poetry, pranks, a violinist and the winner... a Rubik's cube extravaganza of fun, tricks and mastery...James, Leon and Michael!

Well done to all the children who made us feel extremely proud for such courage to stand up and entertain, but also to a brilliant audience too. A big thank you to our judges, Sue and David (Snr) Wyatt and Diane Harris. Book your seats for next year! We have had more running and football champions, amazing readers and creative artists. Our Giraffe fundraising team organised a very popular movie night and are running a stall at the Little Owl Christmas fair. The term has been full of learning and fun. We are looking forward to the Nativity and then at the end of term, the Christingle Service in the church at 9am Thursday 14th December. You are all welcome to join us.
Sonia Hegan, Headteacher



A message from our Minister



Dear Friends, Christmas is a wonderful time of year. A special time for families and friends to meet up and spend time together. To have fun and enjoy each other's company. We warmly invite you to join with us during this Christmas time, and there's lots going on!

Our Advent Season begins with **Choral Evensong on Sunday 3 December**. Our annual **Carol Service will be on Tuesday 19 December at 6:30pm**, with the choirs of Dry Drayton and Coton Churches: the perfect start to Christmas! We are holding a new **Crib Service for families and children on Christmas Eve starting at 3pm**, with carols and the story of the first Christmas. Children are most welcome to come dressed as their favourite character from the Christmas story! Revd Canon Sue will be leading **Midnight Mass at 11:30pm on Christmas Eve**, and Revd Clare will be leading a service of **Holy Communion for families on Christmas day at 9:30am**. All are most welcome and we look forward to seeing you over the festive season!

Jesus's birth was a moment of great wonder, beauty and joy in uncertain and difficult times. But even in the worst of times, we have seen an unbroken tradition, celebrating Jesus's birth. The Christmas story reminds us however afraid and worried and anxious we may feel, we can all experience a renewed sense of hope and joy that our saviour Jesus has been born. Jesus was the greatest gift ever given! A gift of unconditional love and forgiveness, and hope for a better tomorrow. God sent His son as a tiny, vulnerable baby into an ordinary family, at a difficult and dangerous time, to help us find our way home to Him. Jesus is the living hope that God is with us, no matter what.

God Bless, Clare

Carols by Candlelight
with fizz & festive nibbles

The Orsino Singers

Sunday 10 December
5:30 pm
Dry Drayton Church

Get in the festive mood with some beautiful seasonal music, candlelight and a glass of something sparkling. Expect traditional tunes and modern classics, festive favourites and contemporary carols.

Programme includes John Rutter's *12 Days of Christmas*, Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, Eric Whitacre's *Seal Lullaby*, William Byrd's *O Magnum Mysterium* and the traditional *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

Entry free, fizz and nibbles £5.00.

Sunday Services

St Peter & St Paul

St Peter & St Paul is part of the Lordsbridge Team of Churches and the Diocese of Ely.

<https://drydraytonchurch.co.uk/>

Lead Minister: Revd Clare Coates

Lead Minister for Dry Drayton, Caldecote with Childerley and Hardwick

Tel: 07818 618795. Email: clarecoates@lordsbridge.org

Assistant Minister: Revd Canon Sue Wyatt

Tel: 01954 780775. Email: sue.e.wyatt@btinternet.com

Services in December

Sunday 3 December

5:30pm Advent Choral Evensong with Revd Clare. All welcome.

Sunday 10 December

9:30am Holy Communion, with Revd Priscilla. All welcome.

Thursday 14 December

9am School Christingle service. All welcome.

Sunday 17 December

11am Morning Worship for all Ages with Revd Clare. All welcome.

Tuesday 19 December

6:30pm Carol Service with the choirs of Dry Drayton and Coton churches. All welcome.

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December

3-4pm Forest Church Crib Service in the church, with Revd Clare. All welcome.

11:30pm Midnight Mass with Revd Canon Sue. All welcome.

Christmas Day Sunday 25 December

9:30am Holy Communion with Revd Clare. All welcome.

Sunday 31 December

9:30am BCP Morning Prayer with John Harding in Dry Drayton Church. All welcome.

10:30am Team Service of Holy Communion in Haslingfield, with Revd Priscilla. All welcome.

5:30pm Team Service of Evening Prayer with Revd Clare in Dry Drayton. All welcome.

Wednesdays Prayer and Praise 2pm

We are changing the way we meet! We will be meeting in person monthly on the second Wednesday of each

month in term time. On the other three Wednesdays in the month, we will be meeting to pray on Zoom on:

Nov 15, 2023 2:00 PM

Nov 22, 2023 2:00 PM

Nov 29, 2023 2:00 PM

Dec 6, 2023 2:00 PM

All are welcome to join us as we pray for our church and community, and the wider world.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88221400075?pwd=b3VQeDARQVJRREtYlgrZ0tEbDdWdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 2140 0075

Passcode: 534531

Services in January 2024

Sunday 7 January

5:30pm Choral Evensong for Epiphany with Revd Clare. All welcome.

Sunday 14 January

9:30am Holy Communion with Revd Canon Sue. All welcome.

Sunday 21 January

11am Morning Worship for all ages with Revd Clare and Gabrielle Clarke. All welcome.

Sunday 28 January

9:30am Holy Communion with Revd Clare. All welcome.
3-4pm Forest Church with Revd Clare and Gabrielle Clarke. All welcome.

Zoom Services

Worship at Home – All Lordsbridge Zoom Service

Every Sunday, 11.00am. Join any time from 10.50am.

<https://zoom.us/j/82311473640>.

The Book Group reads

DEATH AT LA FENICE

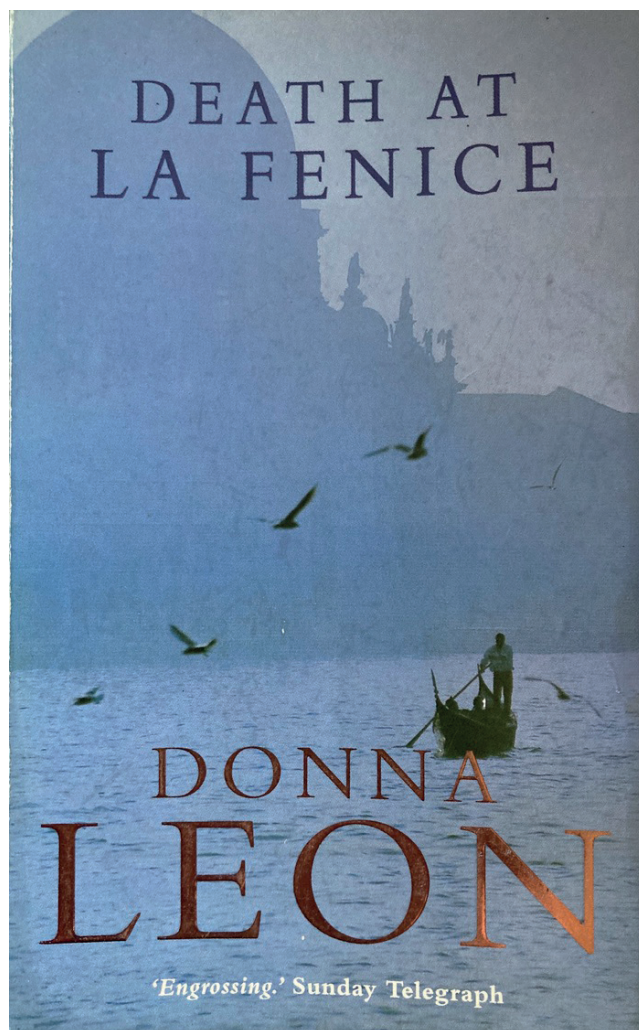
DONNA LEON

We met this month to review *Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon. Set in Venice this follows the investigation into the death of Maestro Helmut Wellauer, a world-renowned conductor, who died from cyanide poisoning during an intermission at La Fenice. This is the first in an extensive series of novels by Donna Leon about Guido Brunetti the Vice-commissario of police in Venice, who she introduces in this novel.

Wellauer is portrayed as a moralistic character and prejudiced against gays. He reneged on a deal with the gay director to place a friend of his in a performance and also threatened to tell the lead soprano, Flavia Petrielli's ex-husband about her lesbian affair with American millionaire archaeologist Brett Lynch, so that Flavia's abusive ex-husband could gain custody of their children. Brett admits that Flavia saw the conductor during intermission and that they fought about the threats. Brunetti also learns that Wellauer may have been a Nazi and was definitely a womaniser. He hears about trouble with an elderly former opera singer, Clemenza Santina. He goes to see the singer, who is living in squalor, but she refuses to talk with him about the core of her hatred toward Wellauer. From his interview with a journalist, Brunetti discovers that Wellauer had indirectly caused the death of Clemenza's sister, who died from an illegal abortion. Brunetti also uncovers that Wellauer was distracted before his death, seemed estranged from his wife, and learned from doctors that he was going deaf. So there are a few suspects who would have had reason and opportunity to poison Wellauer but Brunetti discovers that the truth is more obscure.

The group agreed that this was an enjoyable and easy book to read, making it a pleasant contrast to our previous book. The opera theme was not to everyone's taste and some members found the book slow to develop as it lacks action. However, in this crime thriller, the death and its causes are secondary to the development of the characters. The group agreed that there are two main characters in this book, the first being the Brunetti family who are introduced in this novel and provide an interesting contrast between Guido Brunetti, a career detective and his wife, Paola, with her own significant family wealth and an academic career. The second character is Venice which is extremely well described with a geographer's feel for the townscape. The novel includes good anecdotes which those who had visited Venice could easily recognise.

Donna Leon has an extensive catalogue and some members of the group have read and enjoyed a number of her books. She



is an American academic who lives and works in Venice and perhaps for that reason there are a few americanisms which appear in the novel which some found jarring. The story was written around 1990 and the novel is very much of that time. Some members found that perhaps the later part of the book was over-edited as for them the ending was abrupt and lacked some context.

There is no meeting in December. At our January meeting we will review 'Cuddy' by Benjamin Myers. Cuddy tells the story of the hermit St. Cuthbert, unofficial patron saint of the North of England. The book covers several historical eras from the 8th century to contemporary England with, at its centre Durham Cathedral and the lives of those who live and work around this place of pilgrimage.

*If you would like to find out more about the group please contact Hilary Smith
Email : hilary.smith@xtranex.co.uk
Mobile : 07786 073220*

Pub news for December and January

We are really looking forward to the new Advent Windows trail in the village: what a lovely thing to do! (See elsewhere in this newsletter for details and the map of the trail.) We are proud to be the first window to unveil on the evening on Friday 1st December so do come along - we'll have mulled wine and mulled juice to greet you! And we will enjoy seeing everyone's windows as they are being unveiled through December. Thank you very much to the organisers.

Christmas plans seem to have been in everyone's minds a little earlier than usual this year so we have everything in place for many festivities here at the pub. We are already baking treats inspired by Christmas and Winter, and so it shall continue!

Mulled wine, cider and juice has been very very popular. And don't forget the wonderful cream-topped Hot Chocolate, and additional Christmassy flavours for your Lattes.

Wreath Making

We are very pleased to have Elizabeth from Mulberry Flowers here on the evening of Thursday 7th December to help you make your own Christmas door wreath. The cost is £40, which includes a donation of £5 to the Trim Trail appeal. Reserve your place by contacting us in the usual way (by Monday 4th if possible please).

Christmas Lunches

We will be cooking up a traditional Christmas roast meal on Sunday 10th and Sunday 17th December, serving between 12 and 3pm. There will be Roast Turkey, Roast Beef or Festive Vegetable Wellington with all the trimmings, also a choice of lovely starters and puddings (all of the menu details and choices are posted on both our website and on our noticeboard). Booking is essential please and if you can pre-order, that would be very helpful for us!

Pizza Passione

Order a delicious pizza on the evening of Saturday 16th December (leaving space in your fridge for stocks of Christmas cheese!) Book a table with us if you'd like to eat in.

Our opening times over the Christmas period are as follows:

Thursday 21st - Open 11am-3pm and 6-9pm (kitchen 12-2.30pm and 6-8pm)

Friday 22nd - Open 11am-3pm and 6-9pm (kitchen 12-2.30pm and 6-8pm)

Saturday 23rd - Open 11am-3pm and 6-9pm (kitchen 12-2.30pm and 6-8pm)

Sunday 24th - Open for Lunch 11am-3pm (kitchen 12-2pm)

Christmas Day - Open from 11.30-1.30pm for Drinks only

Closed 26th and 27th December

Thursday 28th - Open for Brunch 11am-3pm (kitchen 11am-2pm)

Friday 29th - Open for Brunch 11am-3pm (kitchen 11am-2pm)

Saturday 30th - Open for Brunch 11am-3pm (kitchen 11am-2pm)

Sunday 31st - New Year's Eve "House of Games" and "Sausage Sizzle" (11am-5pm) See details below

Monday 1st January - Open for Brunch 11am-3pm (kitchen 11am-2pm)

Drinks from the Bar, Hot Drinks and Cake (incl. Festive Bakes) available at all times.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

We will be seeing the New Year in, antipodean style, starting the celebrations from 11am. The infamous Australian "Sausage Sizzle" will be available all day (Sausage Dogs, Chilli Dogs, Frankfurters and Fries), the Bar will be open and you can take part in the Black Horse "House of Games". We'll also have some Aussie sweet treats... Lamingtons, Fairy Bread, Caramello Koalas and Frog-in-a-Pond! If you're lucky, there'll be Rum Balls... Two-hour slots for your table should be booked in advance please (11am-1pm, 1-3pm and 3-5pm) and there will be two 'House of Games' packs available - one for Family Fun and one for those who enjoy the challenge of our usual Quizzes - £15 per pack with all proceeds going to fundraising appeals (choose between the village Trim Trail appeal or Centre 33 supporting young people in Cambridge).

Do them at your leisure whilst you have a bite to eat and a drink, or concentrate hard and hand in your finished pack for marking - a small and (almost) worthless prize will be awarded on New Year's Day for the winning teams in each group.

Come for Brunch on New Year's Day and then we will clear up, clean down and close for January.

We look forward to seeing you at any (or all) of the above, and then again from Thursday 1st February 2024.

We hope that you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Amanda and Colin

**Don't miss out
on cost of living
support this winter**



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council



Around 25% of benefits go unclaimed

Check you're claiming what you are entitled to



Local foodbanks are there when you need them,
and you don't need a voucher to use most



Get energy-saving advice and find out about grant
funding for home improvements to cut your energy bills

Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living

South Cambridgeshire residents are being encouraged to ensure they take advantage of all the cost-of-living support they are entitled to this winter. With the weather getting colder and communities spending more on heating, the District Council is beginning a new campaign to urge residents to make full use of assistance available. Research suggests that around 25% of some benefits go unclaimed.

- The Council is therefore encouraging residents to check they are claiming what they are legitimately entitled to (by visiting <https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>).
- The campaign also reminds people that local

foodbanks – all listed on the Council's website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/foodbanks> – are there when needed, and you don't need a voucher to use most of them.

- There is also an appeal for residents to get energy-saving advice and find out about grants for home improvements to cut spending on energy bills during the winter. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/fuel-energy-and-utilities/>

- Read more on the District Council's website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/south-cambridgeshire-residents-urged-to-utilise-cost-of-living-support/>

News from the Parish Council

The November meeting of the Parish Council was relatively swift as whilst the agenda was quite full, none of the items took too long to cover. Hence this last piece of the year is somewhat shorter than previous reports.

There is nothing to report regarding either the Oakington Road or Scotland Farm NMUs (Non-Motorised User) Access or the Travel Hub, although it is hoped that there will be some news on the latter after the next December meeting.

Cambridge Road, Madingley

This topic was discussed during the open public forum, and the minutes of the November meeting will include Cllr. Granger's email and the reply from Clare Rankin as appendices. As mentioned in the previous report, we are not optimistic that any changes will be made to the scheme despite actions from some residents of Madingley.

Local Highways Improvement (LHI) application

The Parish Council has heard nothing further from Highways regarding the next steps of the planned introduction of the 40mph buffer zones and HGV weight advisory signage. This work will be funded through the Local Highways Improvement scheme with a contribution from the Parish Council.

The closing date for the next round of LHI applications is January 2024. Considering the outstanding work due with the current application, and the intended traffic calming work which will be funded through S106 funds received from the first development phase of Northstowe, it was decided that an application would not be made for 2024. It should be noted that the money from Northstowe phase 1 is being held by the County Council, not the Parish Council and will be made available once a traffic calming plan has been submitted.

The options for further traffic calming will be discussed with our Traffic Liaison Officer and will take account of the results of the survey which was carried out over a year ago.

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be Tuesday 5 December and Tuesday 9 January, both at 19.00 in the Village Hall.

As Rachel is stepping down as editor of the Newsletter, I would like to thank her and her team for the sterling work they have done for more than six years to ensure that the Village Newsletter is received throughout Dry Drayton in a regular and timely manner.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and my best wishes for 2024.

Cllr. Stephen Aldersley
cllr.aldersley@drydraytonpc.org.uk

Bin Days

All dates on Thursday unless otherwise noted.

Source: www.scambs.gov.uk

December

7 black
14 blue/green
21 black
29* blue
*Friday

January

4 black
11 blue/green
18 black
25 blue

Note: Biweekly green bin collection resumes in March.



Rothwell's Carpet Cleaning

Carpet, Stone floor, Upholstery & Rug Cleaning

A few points that make us stand out,

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.

We are re an honest local family firm.

Our large truck mounted machines mean more cleaning & drying power for the best results possible.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

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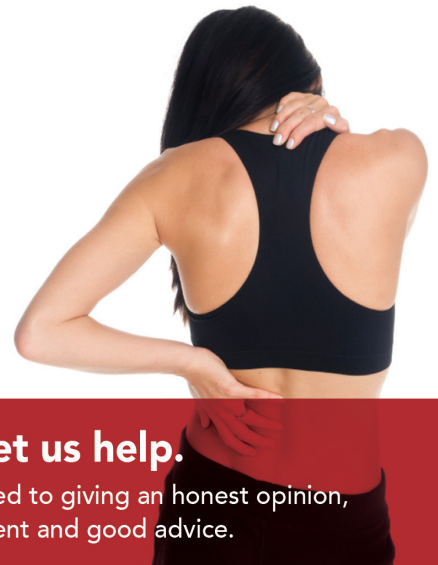
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