

News from Fulbourn Forum for community action 18 January 2011

First, a Happy New Year to everyone. We had a great start in 2010 and there are lots of new things to tell you about for 2011. So, to begin:

Some enthusiasts from the **Grow Your Own group** have come forward with the idea that we might hold a Seedy Sunday event here in Fulbourn in 2012. So plenty of time to get prepared, but meanwhile, for those who would like to see what it is all about, the Trumpington Allotment Society is holding a Seedy Sunday at the Trumpington Village Hall, High Street, on 23 January (this weekend) between 1.30 - 4.00pm. Entrance: Adults £1, children free. This is the place to swap seed, plus there is a talk and a film about saving seed. It's OK if you don't have seed to donate as there will be plenty to go round. Here is a link for full details:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.net/event/trumpington-seedy-sunday/21880.aspx>

A final reminder for the **talk by Ron Mungovan**, the SCDC Ecology Officer, ***Saving the Fulbourn Swifts and more....***, which is on Tuesday 25 January starting at 7.45pm in The Swifts Meeting Room, Haggis Gap. Refreshments will be available after the talk with plenty of time for questions. We all appreciate the magic of the swifts circling above our village in the summer months, so this ongoing project certainly merits our support. It is hoped that the Windmill Estate will continue to have the largest colony of swifts in East Anglia. Free entry, but a small voluntary donation towards the cost of the room hire will be much appreciated.

Making the Most of Food event

Fulbourn Forum is one of six founding groups of the Cambridge Sustainable Food Alliance (CaSFA) who are organizing this event on Saturday 29 January from 1pm to 5pm at the Cambridge Cookery School, Purbeck Road, Cambridge. Apparently, we throw away over 8m tonnes of food each year, and the programme will explain how to save money by avoiding food waste, get to grips with what 'best before', 'sell by' and 'use by' labels really mean, share tips on using leftovers, and learn to make delicious dishes using seasonal fruit and veg. The event is sponsored by Love Food Hate Waste, a campaign from WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) which is a not-for-profit organization, backed by government funding, responsible for encouraging recycling and home composting. Places are limited, so to reserve a place (£10/£5 concessions) or for more information call Amy Tillson on 01223 460475. Pippa Vine and Marie-Ann Ha from Fulbourn are both involved in running the event on the day.

Grow Your Own Group meeting in the Six Bells

The next meeting of this informal group of those interested in growing their own fruit and vegetables will be on Wednesday 2 February from 7.30pm onwards. Share experiences, make plans for the new season, arrange to swap seeds and young plants, or bring your own ideas for future activities.

Beginners and experienced gardeners all welcome. Contact John Willis 881103 for further information.

Energy Monitors - The South Cambridgeshire District Council SPEP project has allocated to Fulbourn additional energy monitors for use by residents. The monitor display is designed to encourage learning about how to use electricity efficiently, and to spot when you might be wasting it. Combined with regular meter readings, this will help you save money. By having a baseline understanding of your present energy use, the savings made by any future adjustments will be easily seen. The display shows what is happening right now, with the information being shown in £, kWh, or CO2 emissions. Full instructions for installation and use are provided.

Fulbourn Forum for community action will be at the Library between 10.00am and 12.00 noon on Saturday 5 February to publicise the loan of the monitors, and to help with any queries on their use and associated energy saving issues (an energy saving checklist will also be available). Monitors will be available on the day but can also be picked up from the Library at any of their normal opening times – see www.fulbournlibrary.co.uk. The loan will be for an initial four weeks, but may be extended if demand allows. So, join us at the library on the 5th while borrowing a book, browsing the Friends of Fulbourn Library monthly book sale, and enjoying a drink and snack at the library volunteers' Coffee Morning. For further information please contact David Cottee 880616.

Fulbourn Garden Share Scheme

Following our earlier announcement, the scheme is beginning to take off. A couple of gardens are already being shared and we now have several more gardens looking for someone to help grow and share fresh fruit and vegetables. So, if you are keen to grow more, but do not have enough space in

your own garden, get in touch with John Willis on 881103 to see if we can match you with a garden owner. It is up to the two parties whether they enter into a formal garden share arrangement, but we can help with guidelines to provide the basis for discussion. Hopefully, there will be a few more matches before the new season gets fully under way.

How to Reduce Your Energy Costs

Thursday 3 March 2011 at 7.30pm in The Meeting Room at The Fulbourn Centre, Home End.

With Bruce Pittingale of Eastern Carbon Reduction Initiative (Eastern CRI) and a representative from Cambridge Carbon Footprint. This is a practical session with information on home insulation, grant aid, energy efficiency, the usefulness of energy monitoring and thermal imaging. Presentations will be followed by a Question and Answer Session and Discussion.

This is a great opportunity to get answers to your specific questions on these topics as they relate to your own home. Also we would be very pleased to hear of your own experiences in reducing your energy costs and saving energy, ideas that can be taken away by others. The easy to use electricity monitors mentioned above will be available on the night. For more information contact David Cottee on C880616 or fulbournforum@gmail.com. This is a South Cambridgeshire District Council SPEP sponsored event in conjunction with Fulbourn Parish Council and Fulbourn Forum.

Work Parties

On a glorious, frosty but sunny morning on 2 January, the first work party of the year on the Nature Reserve was successful in clearing a good area of scrub in the vicinity of the pond that had re-invaded previously cleared ground. With a bit of encouragement a great bonfire was achieved! Six adults, two young children and Nigel, the warden, managed to work up a good appetite before returning home for lunch. More hands, though, would be most useful and allow for an even bigger bonfire!

The next work party by the Wildlife Trust at Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve is on the morning of Sunday 6 March. Phone or email the Voluntary Warden, Nigel Copeman, in advance to say that you are coming - ncopeman172@btinternet.com C882802. Please note that the work party originally planned for 6 February has unfortunately had to be cancelled, so a good turnout for 6 March would be much appreciated!

The next work party by the Friends of The Roman Road and Fleam Dyke is on Sunday 20 February when work will take place on The Roman Road (Golf Course section). Meet at Wandlebury car park, 9.45am. Phone or email in advance to Julia Napier C213152 frfdjin@freebie.net.

Dates for the Diary

The next Litter Pick is already being planned for the afternoon of Sunday 20 March. Do please keep the date free if you are able. Unfortunately, the litter is already coming back so there will be plenty to do, but, as usual, it should be an enjoyable and satisfying afternoon. We'll meet up afterwards back at the Fulbourn Centre for tea and biscuits as before. Are there any organizations out there that would like to get a team together? More details to follow in February/March.

Fulbourn Forum for community action will be holding its AGM on Thursday 7 April at the Fulbourn Centre. We are planning to combine the AGM with a presentation around the issues of sustainability and food sourcing. We would love to see as many of you as possible, to join us for a drink, and to talk about the first year of the Forum and the plans for the future. More details to follow in February/March.

And lastly, to celebrate the imminent arrival of Spring and for an opportunity to walk through the Fulbourn Manor grounds to see the carpets of snowdrops and aconites, why not join the Snowdrop Concert on Sunday 13 February. Manor grounds open from 2.00pm, tea and cake in the church from 2.45pm, and a concert of choral favourites from 3.30 to 4.30pm. The event raises funds for The Arthur Rank Hospice. For full details see the Fulbourn Arts website www.fulbournarts.org.

With best wishes,

David Cottee
Secretary, **Fulbourn Forum for community action**
C880616