

The Wintringham 
wagtail

The Wintringham Newsletter

Issue 3 Spring 2022



**Here comes
the sun!**

Making plans

All the latest development news

Checking in

Latest updates from local partners

Coming up

Events to look forward to in 2022

Welcome to the third issue of the Wintringham Wagtail and the first of 2022!

We start the year with nearly 100 families moved in and a warm welcome to those who have joined us at Wintringham. I hope you are settling in well and enjoying life, whether you have moved locally or from further afield. We look forward to welcoming new residents later this year as Durkan and Barratt/David Wilson housebuilders join us here at Wintringham.

For those who I haven't had the opportunity to meet yet, I am Urban&Civic's Community Development Lead here at Wintringham. I'm here to support new residents as they move in and help create and shape a community to be proud of. We organise a variety of community events throughout the year and invite residents to input into consultations on key community development milestones here at Wintringham. I am based in the new Urban&Civic office at the end of Nuffield Road opposite Wintringham Primary Academy. Please feel free to arrange a time to come and see me when you can. I'm here if you have any questions or need any information and I'm always glad to hear how you're settling in and to listen to any feedback you'd like to share.

All residents will have the opportunity shortly to give us their views and suggestions during the consultation for the future District Centre, which will include a shop, café/restaurant, nursery, gym, library and community centre as well as a public square area.

There are also lots of other ways you can interact as a resident, meet new neighbours or get involved with the growing community. We organise a number of events throughout the year around our core values of wellness, ecology and heritage and of course not forgetting a few social ones too involving fantastic local food and drink vendors!



If you fancy some fresh air and a break from you screen, or want to meet some new neighbours, please join us for a walk around the Wintringham paths. We meet every Monday at 12.30pm at Bret Pond.

The Urban&Civic monthly Residents' Forums are a great way to stay up to date with what's happening in and around the Wintringham development. If you have any questions or topics you'd like us to cover in these forums please let me know. They take place on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm for an hour and we will let you know in advance whether this will be via Zoom or in person. Look out for your details on the Wintringham Community Facebook page and by door drop - we hope to see you there!

With very best wishes,

Christine

Christine.littlewood@urbanandcivic.com
07384 816725



Wintringham creates jobs for local people



A group of local volunteers took part in Groundwork's latest month long Green Team project: building, installing and planting pots and planters along Pelham Road and outside the new Urban&Civic office.

The initiative is part of a programme to help local jobseekers learn new skills, gain qualifications and improve their employment prospects while helping to create green spaces for the community to enjoy.

The Green Team participants, supported by Encore Estates and Whiting Landscape, gained experience in practical horticulture, landscaping, timber construction and planting. This was supplemented by employability training from Groundwork, which included support with CVs and interview skills.

Christine said: "Creating jobs for local people is a priority for the Wintringham development and projects like Green Team are a great way to upskill and recruit people living in the area. It's been great to see how participants have developed during the project and we're delighted that all those who completed the course are on track for full time employment. They've done a fantastic job and we wish them every success for the future."

Issue 3 highlights

P4 & 5

Development update at a glance

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Wintringham events calendar

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Update from our local partners

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Residents' Forum Update

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



Phase 1 update



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

Love's Farm



1 Durkan

Durkan is busy onsite and 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. Durkan homes will also complete the frontage along Cambridge Road and create a welcoming eastern gateway for Wintringham. The sales and marketing suite is due to open in early 2022, with the first homes ready for occupation by Summer 2022.

2 Barratt / David Wilson Homes

Barratt / David Wilson Homes submitted an application for 336 homes (1 bedroom to 4 bedroom homes) in July 2021 and a decision is due imminently. The plans include 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 Stonebond Properties

Stonebond submitted a planning application in February to deliver 127 new homes (a mix of 2-5 bedroom flats and houses) 38 of which will be Affordable Housing. The homes will be set within an attractively landscaped setting. Stonebond are due to start on site in Summer 2022.



4 New Urban&Civic office (shown above)

The Wintringham project team has moved into a new site 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!

5 Future District Centre

Wintringham's first local hub will bring together some key facilities and spaces for Wintringham. It will include a shop, café/restaurant, nursery, gym, library and community centre as well as a public square area for community gatherings. The second phase of the District Centre will also include a health centre, and space for new businesses. Before plans are finalised and submitted later this year, the team want to ensure residents can help shape plans, and so we will be holding some consultation events to share the latest details and gather feedback.

Thursday, 31 March

3pm to 8pm at St Neots Town Football Club

Saturday, 2 April

10am to 3pm at Wintringham Primary Academy

Leisure routes

Wintringham will deliver nearly 9km of walk and cycle ways which will be rolled out in phases as the development grows. These will include perimeter trails, with maps and signs to help you navigate your way and learn a few facts about Wintringham as you go. You can explore the first phase of Wintringham leisure routes now – keep an eye out for information on our cheery friend and resident species of bird, the Wagtail, who has given us the name of this newsletter! We'll be keeping you up to date on future leisure routes opening up as Wintringham continues to grow.



2021, a year to remember...



Street Food Saturdays



Carols at Wintringham



Archaeological Dig



Wild Wintringham



... and plenty more to come in 2022!

MARCH 31

Have your say: Wintringham District Centre
Urban&Civic will be hosting some in-person consultation events for Wintringham residents to have their say on the future District Centre.



Thursday, 31 March
3pm to 8pm at St Neots Town Football Club

Saturday, 2 April
10am to 3pm at Wintringham Primary Academy

APRIL 2

APRIL 7

Easter Big Bird Box Workshop
Come along to try your hand at building bird boxes and feeders for wildlife at Wintringham. All are welcome!



APRIL 11

Easter Crafts
Children's Easter Activities at Wintringham Primary Academy.



JUNE 5

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
A joint community celebration for both Loves Farm and Wintringham residents brought to you by Loves Farm Community Association and Wintringham Residents' Association.



JULY 24

Wintringham on Wheels
Get cycle-savvy with Rutland Cycling. Test ride an electric or cargo bike and join a free cycle servicing workshop.

AUGUST 27

Summer Saturday Pop-Up
Summer Saturdays are back! Pop to the Plaza to enjoy some delicious street food and a beverage from the mobile bar.



OCTOBER 15

Heritage Archaeology Day
Come along to discover fascinating facts and finds from Wintringham's archaeological excavations.



DECEMBER 14

Christmas at Wintringham



An update from our local partners



Tracy Bryden
Headteacher of Wintringham Primary Academy

Christmas was a busy time at Wintringham Primary Academy. Students and staff made sustainable decorations to hang around the school and the children were able to put their own handmade decoration on the tree. Father Christmas came to visit the younger children with a gift. We were also visited by an amazing magician and the older children attended a silent disco for our Reward Day at the end of term. The whole school performed 'The INNspectors' which was uploaded so that the parents could watch. It was a fantastic effort from both pupils and staff.

Our Pre-school is flourishing and we are delighted to see so many new faces join us. The new children have settled in so well and we hope to welcome more children to both the Pre-school and the school soon.

We currently have places in school for children in Reception going up to Year 4. In September we are expecting to have a Year 5/6 class so that we will be open to all year groups.

We are hoping that with Covid restrictions lifting, we will be able to open the school up much more to our parents and carers, and ultimately the wider community.

Nurture, Inspire, Flourish.



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



stephen.ferguson@stneots-tc.gov.uk

I recently had the honour of cutting the ribbon on a new crowd-funded artisan bakery that has opened just around the corner from Market Square. Cross Keys Mews recently gained a new baby boutique and beautiful little plant shop, joining the range of other quirky little businesses which are fast making it the epicentre of St Neots' revival. Although that might soon be challenged by Church Walk, which will soon gain a delicatessen and a tap-room in which you can sample craft-beers and liquors.

When I first donned the Mayor's chain in May 2018, in the middle of the first lockdown, the town was in a sorry state. The previous months hadn't been kind, with the departure of Dorothy Perkins and Beales, and the High-Street was littered with empty units. With the pandemic meaning that shops were closed for much of that year, I wrote an article for the local paper urging people to spend as much money as they could afford with local businesses, predicting that the St Neots could end up like a ghost town if not.

Two years later, as my second (and final) year as Mayor comes to an end, I'm delighted with the recovery. St Neots is really beginning to flourish, and with the prospect of £13 million of Future High Street Investment still to come, things look really promising.

St Neots East residents have been a huge part of that recovery. Unlike those long-term residents who complain about a time when we still had a Woolworths, relative newcomers appreciate St Neots for the beautiful little market town that it is. After all, most of us recently chose to live here above other slightly less attractive places.

I'd like to urge you all to download the Ting bus app, and take regular trips into the town centre, and spend your money in our shops, cafes, bars and restaurants. With your support St Neots' revival will continue to gain momentum.

Although this will probably be my final column as Mayor, I'll continue to be your County Councillor.

Helene Tame
Community Chaplain, Love's Farm



community.chaplain@yahoo.co.uk

I'd like to tell you a story - it's about something that happened just a few weeks ago. A friend was frustrated and so was her neighbour. There was a car parked outside their homes that had sat there for ages, several weeks. One had checked that it was taxed and insured and yes, the paperwork was in order. Its owner lived just across the road so why hadn't they moved it to one of the parking spaces available to them. They discussed tactics. A note on the windscreen - or through the door? What should they do to vent their frustration and get the car moved!

Thankfully, my friend settled to 'go in peace' - armed with a bunch of flowers she went across the road and knocked on the door. It was opened tentatively and after brief introductions the story came out. The owner of the car, too poorly to come to the door, had become unwell, very unwell - out of the blue - an unexpected blow. The car was theirs and would be sold later next week as it was unlikely that it's owner would be fit enough to drive it again. My friend listened - expressed her shock, sympathy and sadness and offered the flowers and help - 'anything', she said, 'just call.'

'The facts don't always equal the truth' is a saying I have so often found to be true. Too easily I make my case, the facts support it - I rationalise that my frustration - anger - whatever, is justified and then something shifts. I hear the other side of the story or am made aware of something that alters entirely what I thought I had known and squared.

None of us can ever fully know the story or motives or struggles of another, so to approach one another with kindness is essential. Kindness is in danger of becoming an overused and under practised word but how brilliant would it be for our community to be known and marked by surely the best of all qualities, kindness. It's a universal need and a universal language wherever we live; let's be slow to judge and swift to be kind and make for a happy year, whatever it holds.

Wintringham Residents' Association



Greetings to all Wagtail readers from the Wintringham Residents Association or WRA for short! The WRA is the collective voice of all Wintringham residents, very much by residents, for residents. The main aim of the group is to act as a central enabler to ensure a powerful voice for residents, coordinating community events and escalating issues on behalf of residents (where Christine, our fab U&C community lead can't help first!). This can't be done without the support of residents and partners like Urban & Civic (U&C) and St Neots Town Council, amongst others.

As a new association, we are on the lookout for residents who want to help make a difference and can spare an hour or two each month by joining the committee. Thanks to U&C we are in the process of getting a WRA website and email up and running, so watch this space, but in the meantime I would encourage you to join the Wintringham Community (www.facebook.com/groups/wintringhamcommunity) Facebook group, which is where you can find out more and get involved.

A real focus right now, which we need help with, is planning a super event for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebration. We're in early talks with our more established, neighbouring community association in Loves Farm, to make the day a memorable experience which we can all be proud and talk about for years to come.

Kind regards,

Wintringham Residents Association

Local spotlight

St Neots Rowing Club

St Neots Rowing Club has been the home of rowing in the town for over 150 years and trains on a beautiful stretch of river between the locks at Eaton Socon and Little Paxton.



The Club welcomes new members of all abilities and ages, offering several learn to row courses each year and an introduction to its existing squads for those with previous experience.

All members have year-round access to a range of fantastic facilities, including a fleet of fine and recreational boats, a fully equipped gym, an erg room, changing facilities, a clubroom and a licensed bar. Its coaching team run free fitness sessions during the week and water sessions at the weekend for all crews.

The Club competes at local, national and international events, catering to the ambitions of each member. It also holds a summer regatta and an autumn head race. The St Neots Regatta, run by all its members, is one of the largest two-day regattas in the country, attracting clubs from all around, and raising funds to maintain its facilities.

The junior squad provides a structured and exciting programme of training for 12 to 18-year-olds. The squad enjoys a history of racing success, having produced junior world champions and youth-Olympians. It also provides excellent opportunities for self-development, with juniors playing a leading role in the running of the Club.

Ryan Keating, Captain of St Neots Rowing Club, said: "The Rowing Club is a sporting and social hub of St Neots, with training, races and events taking place throughout the year. If you are new to the area or have moved locally, the Club is a great way to learn basic skills or enhance your rowing proficiency in a friendly and supportive environment."

If you're interested in learning to row, email learn@stneotsrc.co.uk (seniors) or juniors-coordinator@stneotsrc.co.uk (juniors).

For more information, visit www.stneotsrc.co.uk

Walk & Talk 4 Men



Walk & Talk 4 Men is a simple concept that gives men the opportunity to talk in a relaxed and comfortable environment whilst taking in the beauty of the local countryside. The Nature Reserve at Little Paxton has become its adopted home, with most walks taking place there.

The St Neots group of Walk & Talk 4 Men was started by Little Paxton resident, Justin Leigh, back in March 2021 with a vision of a single monthly walk around the Heron Trail. Justin explained: "The group has been brought together to give men the opportunity to meet other men to walk in nature and talk about whatever is on their mind and listen to the experiences of other members of the group. The aim is to support men's mental health and wellbeing.

"It's not just for men that have mental health issues. Whilst some of our walkers have had underlying issues, a number also use it to give themselves time to think, relax and recharge, leaving their phones and 9-5 lives on hold for a couple of hours. There is no agenda, we talk about anything and everything. We all meet up fifteen minutes prior to the walk starting, buddy up in pairs and then set off never knowing where the conversation is going to start or end."

Steve Whitney attended the first walk and was inspired to help. Since then, Justin and Steve have increased the monthly walks to fortnightly. During winter all walks take place on a Sunday and during the spring and summer months they alternate between a Sunday morning and a midweek evening when the light allows. They've also catered for recent requests for additional walks in and around St Neots.

The group is available to any man looking for a bit of male company and conversation, whether you are feeling a little low or on top form, go along and join in. You will be made to feel very welcome.

Find out more

-  **The local group Facebook page**
[WalkandTalk4MenStNeots](#)
-  **WhatsApp Group**
<http://bit.ly/WandT4MenStNeots>
-  **Twitter**
[@talk4men](#)
-  **Instagram**
[walkandtalk4men_stneots](#)



The Shopkeeper's Daughter



Rebecca said: "I was very close to my dad, and it was really important for me to turn his memory into something positive. Having discovered the healing nature of plants and a talent for making them flourish, I decided to set up a shop in my hometown of St Neots. The shop name and branding - The Shopkeeper's Daughter - is a love letter to my dad.

"Plants have a positive effect on mental health and wellbeing. I think independent shops are an intrinsic part of the community, and stressed people who come into my shop often leave more chilled out and relaxed. I love talking about plants and help customers style their homes: finding the right plants and giving advice on how to look after them. We also have a fantastic range of pots, which often provide the finishing touch.

If strange and unusual plants are your thing, then you should visit The Shopkeeper's Daughter in St Neots. Its owner, Rebecca, has a passion for plants and set up her shop last year in memory to her father. She has over 70 different varieties of plant, from the instantly recognisable to the weird and wonderful.

Rebecca's father was a shopkeeper in St Neots, who ran the local supermarket for many years. When he became too ill to work, Rebecca took on the role of his carer and, when he passed away, she felt his loss deeply. As part of the healing process, she discovered an interest in house plants and found nurturing and watching them thrive and grow gave her a sense of peace.



"My top tip is not to kill your plants with kindness. Lots of people over water their plants. I help customers recognise the signs, so they can respond to their plants' needs and they can thrive."

We hope you have an opportunity to visit The Shopkeeper's Daughter soon and have enclosed a 10% discount voucher for your first purchase.



For more information, follow The Shopkeeper's Daughter on Instagram and Facebook.



Elsie May's Electric Lounge



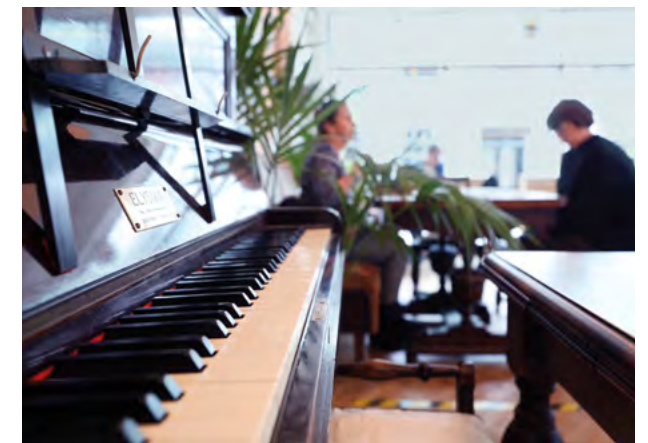
Elsie May's Electric Lounge Café and Bar in St Neots' Market Square has opened the doors to its new artisan bakery, with a wide range of sourdoughs, focaccia, granary breads and pastries baked daily, alongside a tempting selection of cakes and scones.

The bakery was established after raising over £17,000 through crowdfunding from over 300 backers to make the transformation happen and was officially opened by St Neots Town Mayor, Cllr Stephen Ferguson on 21 January.

The funds helped Naomi Rose, owner of Elsie May's Electric Lounge, purchase essential equipment such as mixers, sinks, ovens and extraction units and cover installation and contracting work to make the building's annexe fit for purpose.

Naomi said: "Our local community is so important to us, and we really want to make this bakery a place that people can be proud of, right on their doorstep.

"It's been a labour of love, albeit a little stressful at times, to get the bakery up and running and we are delighted to welcome all our friends, families and the wonderful people of St Neots down to try some of our new bakes. We've been testing, trialling and perfecting our recipes over the past few months, so I'm sure people will love them!"



You can also enjoy the baked goodies in the dog-friendly café and bar, originally opened in December 2018. It was named after Naomi's grandmother, Elsie May, who dreamt of having her own tearoom, and the café serves breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea alongside locally roasted coffee and loose-leaf tea.

The bakery school is due to open in the Spring and classes (at the bakery and online) will be advertised on the website and social media. If you are interested in private group classes, get in touch with Naomi to discuss options.

To find out more, visit www.elsiemays.co.uk and follow Elsie May's Electric Lounge social media channels.

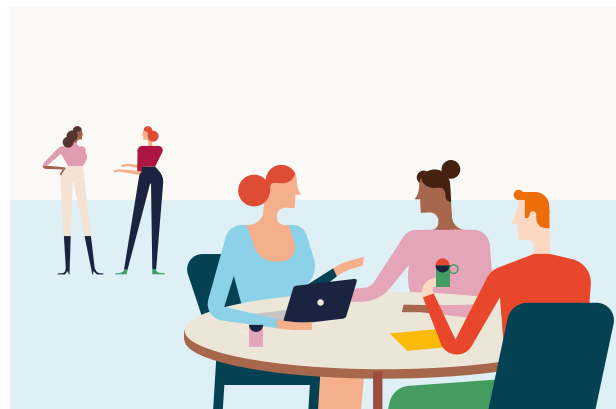
Residents' Forum Update



On every last Thursday of the month, Urban&Civic host a forum for all Wintringham residents to hear the latest development news, community updates and event plans.

February's Forum covered; a development update with details of what is coming forward in Phase 1 and future phases; plans for an extension to the leisure routes and the opening of a pop-up park coming in September 2022; information on the upcoming consultation events for the District Centre; the naming of Wintringham; an update from Encore Estate Management on fee calculation and what Encore are responsible for.

Look out for an invitation through your door and on the Wintringham Community Facebook page for details.



Kickstart 2022!

Does your new year's resolution include improved health and fitness? Get 2022 off on the right foot by walking more to improve your health and wellbeing!

Walking is free, good for your health, convenient and sociable. You can walk with a friend or your neighbours and, not only is it a great way to discover St Neots, but it is also good for the environment. A brisk half an hour walk (walking at roughly 4 miles per hour) could burn a potential 150 calories! There's not just that, there's a whole range of other health benefits from walking. It can reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, high cholesterol and more.

Making small changes, daily, can have a real impact. If you commute to work by car, why not try the train or bus? By walking to the station or bus stop, this can improve your health and fitness, and you could also save money by using the travel offers available to you from LocalGo.

You can have access to a wide range of offers including:

- 15% of Railcards
- 10% off with Commuter Club
- £50 Stagecoach voucher

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 chargers and 10% off parts and servicing at Broken Spoke Cycles, St Neots.

To redeem any of the available offers, all you need to do is register for LocalGo.

For instructions on how to register please email info@localgo.co.uk



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.

Wintringham Walk & Chat Group

Whether you've set new fitness goals for the new year, want to meet new people, or just fancy a stroll around the neighbourhood – come along to stretch your legs and explore the landscaped footpaths Wintringham has to offer! All fitness levels and abilities welcome! Meet every Monday at 12.30pm at Bret Pond.



Look out for issue 4
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