Dry Drayton Newsletter

June 2023

Issue Number 470

East West Rail route announced

As this newsletter was going to print, East West Rail announced their route decision for their Bedford to Cambridge section. Many in the village were concerned that they would choose the Northern route which would have passed through or near Dry Drayton. But instead they have opted for the Southern Route.

They say: "Our conclusion remains that approaching Cambridge from the south is the best solution for the city, the region and – given the global opportunity at the Biomedical Campus – for the whole of the UK too."

You can see full details here: https://eastwestrail.co.uk/routeupdate

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NEWS in Brief



We're sharing the sad news that long-time village resident Howard Russell (pictured above with his wife Gill) died in early May.

Howard and Gill had lived in Cotton's Field since 1973 until they moved – just over a year ago – to Buckinghamshire to be closer to their family. Throughout their time in the village, Howard was involved in many activities here and was among

the founders of the Dry Drayton School and Village Association. He also had a fine singing voice and loved performing in village pantomimes and revues.

His voluntary roles included chairing the Dry Drayton Parish Council and the village charity Town Lands (which was set up before 1616 when land was given "for the poor of Dry Drayton".) Most recently, Town Lands bought, and now manages, the Edwards Woodland for the use and enjoyment of the village.

An article by Diane Harris with more details about both Howard's and Gill's extensive involvement in village activities over the years appeared in the Village Newsletter Feb 2022, page 8. It can be read online at: https://indd.adobe.com/view/ba9c2b76-ea54-49b8-9a73-ba035678ceaf

Howard's cremation will take place at the Chiltern Crematorium in Amersham at 2 pm on Monday 12th June.

Details can be found on the village blog at https://drydrayton.wordpress.com/

New leader sought for Youth Group

A new volunteer to take a lead on the Freaky Friday youth group is needed!

Freaky Friday is a club that has been running at the Village Hall on Fridays from 7-9pm. The club invites village children from year 6 up to join (and children in

Year 6 at the Dry Drayton primary school). The leader's role involves organizing the parent rota, managing membership forms and data, tracking income/expenditure, buying in tuck supplies, managing hall bookings, arranging insurance etc. Please do get in touch with Diane Hird at drch75@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or find out more.

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



Dry Drayton Friendship Club

Members met at the May meeting at which we had not arranged entertainment. However, members sat and happily chatted and caught up with each others news.. This was followed by a tasty afternoon tea prepared by Angie Martin and Carol Doyle.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st June when Alec Hawkes will show some of his

"Fragments of Time" videos. These are recordings of conversations with village residents from the past, which give an insight into Dry Drayton village life as it used to be. This will as usual, be followed by afternoon tea.

Everyone, whether you have been before or not, or whatever your age, will be very welcome.

Marlene Northrop, tel: 01954 789525 email: marlene.northrop28@gmail.com

Village Facebook page moves after admin's conviction

he village Facebook group – a community resource used by many in Dry Drayton – is being moved to a new page after its creator, Chris Downes, was jailed for sex offences including making indecent images of children.

He had set up the 'Dry Drayton People' group as a community page for the village in February 2019. He also used it to advertise his own property maintenance business, Cambridge Property Care, which carried out carpentry and repairs in local homes.

The village Facebook group has been a valuable information resource for many. It communicates news about village events and local services as well as

potholes, power cuts, burst water mains, escaped animals, road closures and traffic accidents. However, following Chris's sentencing, the remaining administrators of the Facebook group decided it was not appropriate for him to be associated with the group and decided to replace it with a new one.

Posting on the 'Dry Drayton People' page was paused in May. Group members are being encouraged to leave it and instead to join the new village Facebook group 'Dry Drayton Locals'. Find it at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1886158478428662

July newsletter deadline

The next issue of the Dry Drayton Newsletter will be the July/August issue. The deadline for that is 20th June. If you have any contributions (text and/or photos), please send them to drydraytonnews@gmail.com to arrive by 20th June at the very latest. Thank you.

Many thanks also to all the Newsletter production team, regular contributors, and the volunteers who deliver the monthly Newsletters to your door. We couldn't do it without you!

Coronation Celebration

ry Drayton experienced a royally good time on Saturday 6th May as the village gathered to watch the coronation of King Charles III.

A full day of events – from breakfast baps to an evening bar and street food – greeted revelers at the village hall.

The event, hosted jointly by the Village Hall Committee and the School and Village Association, saw villagers of all ages drop in and out throughout the day to watch the coronation on the hall's new projector.

The day's rain could not dampen spirits as villagers enjoyed:

• 8 kilos of bacon served as baps (with innumerable cups of coffee and tea)

- A "bring and share" picnic for which families were invited to bring food donations to The Trussell Trust
- Children's activities including paper crowns, a colouring contest, face painting and a (somewhat rained out) treasure hunt
- Music by the Cyriacs, including a rousing sing-along of "God Save the King" – twice!
- Food vendors including Lord Conrad's Brewery, Ice Cream Dreams and Rotisseroll.

Both the S&VA and the Village Hall Committee send tremendous thanks to the many volunteers who made the day memorable.

Community Car Scheme

Caldecote, Dry Drayton and Hardwick

his Car Scheme is available for anyone requiring transportation to essential medical or social destinations and has no other means of transport.

To book a driver, please contact one of our Co-ordinators below:

Gill Stott 07464 069 483 Lizzie Coe 07387 395 296 Derek Evans 07464 052 521

Please call between 8.30am – 6.00pm, Monday – Friday only

To enable a suitable driver to be arranged, please call at least 48 hours before your appointment. Please do not call on weekends and bank holidays.

For each journey, passengers pay £3.50 for a local journey and for longer trips, 30p per mile is charged, (calculated from start of journey at the driver's door to

the end of journey, at the driver's door). Please pay by cash, our drivers cannot accept card payment.

The Scheme is run entirely by a dedicated team of local volunteer drivers and co-ordinators, kindly offering their services to help those in need of transport.

If you would like to join our wonderful supportive team serving our community or have any queries or problems, please contact Sheila Stephenson on 01954 210638 or email on *sheila1pc@yahoo.co.uk*

For all drivers, mileage costs are reimbursed at 45p per mile, part paid by the passenger and a subsidy from Cambridgeshire County Council.

Please note:

Our drivers will not tolerate any verbal abuse or other bad behaviour. We reserve the right to refuse further help in such cases.

Sunday Services in June

St Peter & St Paul

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

Lead Minister: Revd Clare Coates

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

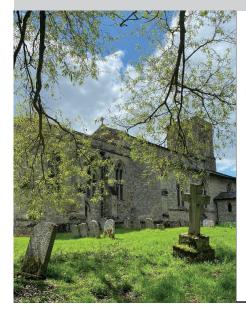
Assistant Minister

Revd Canon Sue Wyatt

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

Revd Lynda Taylor

Tel: 01954 269 563. Email: lyndabtaylor7@gmail.com



Sunday Services in June

Sunday 4 June

5:30pm Choral Evensong with Revd Clare and Revd Lynda preaching. All welcome.

Sunday 11 June

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

Sunday 18 June

11am Morning Worship led by Revd Clare. All welcome to join us for this service of the word suitable for families and all ages.

Sunday 25 June

9:30am Holy Communion led by Revd Clare. All welcome.

St Peter and St Paul's Dry Drayton A small church with a big heart

ear Friends, It was really wonderful to celebrate the baptism of baby Luna last month with her family and friends, on a cold but bright May morning. The church was full of music, laughter, joy and happiness, as we welcomed her into God's family.

Baptism marks the start of everyone's Christian journey: a new beginning, full of expectation, hope, joy and promise. Baptism is not just for babies or young children! Many are baptised in later life, and here at St Peter's and St Paul's we would be most happy to welcome you, whatever your age, and to help you take this first step on your faith journey.

It is not a journey that we make on our own. Walking with Jesus every day of our lives comes with the reassurance and hope that, no matter what we are facing, we are not alone, because Jesus is with us through his Holy Spirit. As a church community, we pledge to travel with you as fellow pilgrims on life's twisty turny road. Every long journey begins with that first step. As fellow travelling companions, we are here to encourage, support and comfort each other every day. We are a small church with a big heart for everybody in our community.

God Bless,
Clare
Revd Clare Coates,
Lead Minister for Dry Drayton, Hardwick and Caldecote with Childerley
clarecoates@lordsbridge.org
07818 618795

The Churchyard IN LATE SPRING

Star-of Bethlehem and crosswort (a relative of lady's bedstraw) have flowered in the churchyard. The laburnum on the corner of the Madingley Road junction is covered with cascades of golden blossoms, attracting both insects and birds in search of a tasty aphid or two!

The emergence of the insects in the warmer weather coincides with increased bat activity. A recent "bat sounding" using specialist equipment to record the sonographs of the calls identified three species at dusk: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and noctule.



A Date For Your Diary - DRY DRAYTON PARISH BOUNDARY WALK 2023

ased on the ancient custom of Beating the Bounds, writes Alec Hawkes, we plan to walk the Parish Boundaries on Saturday 24th June. In England the tradition is centuries old, dating from at least Anglo-Saxon times.

This will be the fifth Boundary Walk since we revived the tradition and this year we will go around the parish in a anticlockwise direction. The full walk is approximately 10 miles and there will be several rest stops and a place for a picnic lunch. There are also a few easy exit points for those that wish to take a shorter route home.

More than half of the Parish Boundary falls on private land and we have permission from the relevant land owners that will allow us to follow the boundary as closely as possible. We will travel along paths and through woods normally closed to the public. We wish to thank Messrs Chivers, Jenkins and Peck for kindly granting this once-in-a-year access to their private land.

Anyone who would like more information or to register their wish to participate should send an email to: boundarywalk@gmail.com or text 07709 584207.

Ofsted News



ry Drayton C of E Primary School is delighted to announce that – after four years of hard work and two intense days of an Ofsted inspection – we are now recognised as a

Good School!

This is a testament to our strong supportive team of dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly to design "an ambitious curriculum for all pupils". We have created a school where children are "safe and happy" and "the pupils are full of smiles and happiness". "They look after their school environment and are kind and caring to one another."

We have always had "high expectations for pupils' behaviour" and it was heart-warming to read that the inspector found that our children "behave well", "respect their teachers", "are polite and courteous...hold doors open for each other and adults" and that "classrooms are calm and orderly".

Children are always keen to learn new things and we really do love reading – thanks to Drdt Drayton School and Village Association and other generous benefactors who have bought new reading books for our library.

We are grateful to the school governing body and all the families who have supported us throughout this time, having faith that we would be the success we knew we could be.

The church and village communities have always been

a great support and champions of the school too. They have helped with the numerous fundraising events to ensure that we could have exciting resources to use in lessons. I hope they feel as proud as we do to have achieved such a very good report, and we would like to thank them from the bottom of our 'big' hearts. You can read the full Ofsted report here https://files.ofsted.gov. uk/v1/file/50216706

The planting of the King's Oak Tree

We were honoured to have the commemorative King Charles III oak tree planted in our school grounds.

The tree was donated by South Cambridgeshire District Council as part of their ambition to double nature on their journey to Net Zero Carbon by 2050. Parish Councillors Stephen Aldersley and Liz Pyle joined the children in giving the oak tree a new home on the field next to the Forest School area. Once in place, we sang the National Anthem and gave three cheers to our new King!

Little Owl Pre-school joined the school, all dressed in their smart party outfits, for a King's coronation tea party in the hall. The torrential rain prevented us from sitting outside, but we didn't mind because we were able to have time for dancing to DJ Mrs Spink and her disco favourites after eating a sumptuous tea. God Save the King! Another opportunity for singing with the National Anthem: we're good at that now!

Sonia Hegan, Headteacher, Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School

Dry Drayton School

School children will be 'Standing Tall' in 2024



n Dry Drayton School we are starting a Giraffe Committee. This is to raise money for a charity called Break that helps children in care.

In a campaign called Cambridge Standing Tall 2024, Break is bringing a sculpture trail of 40 giraffes to Cambridge next year to raise funds for its work in supporting young people in and around care.

Following the previous successful sculpture trail fundraiser in 2021, Cows about Cambridge, in 2024 a trail of 40 magnificent giraffes will be dotted around Cambridge. Dry Drayton School has been given the chance to get involved by creating our own giraffe design. And after the event, the giraffe will come to live with us at Dry Drayton School! Further details on the trail can be found on the Break charity website - https://www.break-charity.org/cambridge-standing-tall

We are currently thinking of ideas to raise money for our giraffe. They include a stall at the School Summer Sizzler on 14th July, a sponsored bike ride and a cake sale. Look out for further details.

As part of our fundraising for, we would like to invite villagers to watch our summer production 'Panto Pandemonium' on Tuesday 11th July at 2 pm or on Wednesday 12th July at 6 pm. This will take place in the marquee on the school field and we will be selling refreshments before the play starts.

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance by emailing office@drydrayton.cambs.sch.uk or calling 01954 780618. There will be a closing collection for the charity Break and Cambridge Standing Tall 2024. Hope you can join us!

The Giraffe Committee, Dry Drayton School

Dry Drayton Primary School presents...

Summer Sizzier

Everyone welcome to an evening of fun!

Friday 14th July

5-8pm - Bouncy castle, local beer and cider, BBQ, summer raffle, stalls, games and more!

Martial arts demonstration

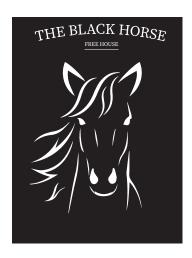
Performance by Dry Drayton School Choir

From 8pm - Live music - Charlotte Pergande performs some favourite tunes in the marquee





News from the pub for June...



o Summer is finally here it seems, and we have one or two events, plus a few additions and changes to our drinks list and our menus to see us through the warmer months ahead.

As soon as the sun shines, glasses (and jugs) of Pimms are

being requested and we have lots of refreshing drinks to keep you cool on warmer days. As well as ice cold Rosé wine, we have Rosé Prosecco and also the new Adnams Blush Wild Wave cider - all indications that Summer is here! Our usual range of draught beers and soft drinks are kept chilled waiting for you too.

The lunchtime menu will change slightly, with the addition of a wider range of Wraps, Salads, Quiches and Frittatas, and the ever-popular homemade Scotch eggs will also regularly feature on the menu. Fish finger Rolls will also be back! Sharing platters made up of English treats or Mediterranean delicacies will be available at lunchtimes and weekends.

We will definitely have the Pimms Cake here throughout the summer - vanilla sponge layered with homemade Pimms Jam and loaded on top with Strawberries, Orange slices, Cucumber and Mint was such a hit over the Coronation weekend! And why not try the Gourmet Brownie Company's 'Extreme Caramel Hazelnut Brownie' topped with a Ferrero Rocher, another huge hit!

Scones on Saturdays

We'll be switching from brunches to serving up Scones on Saturdays instead. We will have freshly baked Cheese (with butter and chutney) or Fruit Scones (with fruity preserves) to have with your coffee or tea! **Pizza Passione** is with us again on the evening of Saturday 17th June. Pre-order with Sandro in advance if you can or take your chance and turn up on the night (he's often really busy and has been known to sell out, and we know why...he makes THE MOST DELICIOUS PIZZAS)

Father's Day is on Sunday 18th June. We will be preparing our usual roast lunch and serving up some retro puddings, and there will be an extra little savoury treat for dad too! Bookings now being taken.

Our Midsummer Quiz will be on Sunday 25th June, to be held outside if possible.

Teams of up to six people, 4pm start, £4 per person and all ticket proceeds will be donated to a charity of the winning teams choice. Get your team booked in and come and join in the fun!

Amanda and Colin

Bin Days

All dates on Thursday unless otherwise noted.

Source: www.scambs.gov.uk

JUNE		JULY	
2*	blue/green	6	black
	*Friday	13	blue/green
8	black	20	black
15	blue/green	27	blue/green
22	black		
29	blue/green		



The Book Group reads

THE DESCENT OF MAN Grayson Perry

ritten in 2016, *The Descent of Man* by Grayson Perry sets out his thoughts on masculinity; what it is, and how it operates. Drawing on his childhood experiences of being abused by his violent stepfather, Perry explores his changing view of behavioural norms and his attitude towards masculinity through his own role as a father and after much therapy.

In the book Perry focuses on four themes of masculinity that he believes need examining:

- Power how men dominate much of our world;
- Performance how men dress and act the part;
- · Violence how men resort to crime and violence; and
- Emotion how men feel.

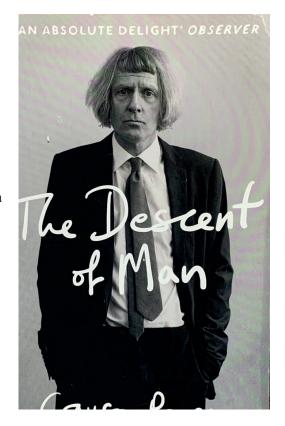
These four themes are drawn together in the Department of Masculinity where Perry explains: "Somewhere in every man's head there is a governor, an unconscious inner voice sending instructions through the intercom. This governor is the boss of every man's personal branch of the Department of Masculinity ... which wants to maintain standards."

Perry uses this imagery to explain extreme male behaviour and violence stating "If a man fails to achieve these standards he is made to feel unworthy, he may hate himself and may take it out on others." It is from this standpoint that Perry explains his background, upbringing, his own youthful violent behaviour and his belief that such normative ideals of masculinity can and should be changed.

The group agreed that this book was a lightweight and lighthearted read tackling an important subject which has been known and experienced by women for centuries. Most found it dated in its views and observational, providing a commentary on society from the perspective of a famous white male, which led us to question whether it would have been published if the author was less well known.

For some members of the group the lack of evidence to support the ideas being promulgated was irritating. The group agreed that the book might have been strengthened if he had brought in more detail of his experiences as a transvestite and the extent to which they had informed his thinking.

The book did provide a catalyst for a wide ranging and interesting discussion about today's societal norms and how the themes set out in the book sit with the current transgender issues. The group felt that culturally there is now less focus on masculine or feminine behaviours and more emphasis on behavioural traits such as empathy and consideration which are not the domain of either gender over another



but may be displayed equally by both. Indeed some of the less endearing masculine behaviours are now being seen in women as they are promoted in their careers. All members of the group were surprised at how often Perry mentioned the class structure in Britain and found his stereotypes unhelpful.

The book we'll be reviewing at our June meeting is My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante. This is the first book of a quartet about two friends, Elena and Lila set in the 1950s, in a poor but vibrant neighbourhood on the outskirts of Naples. Growing up on these tough streets the two girls learn to rely on each other ahead of anyone or anything else. As they grow, and their paths repeatedly diverge and converge, Elena and Lila remain best friends with their respective destinies reflected and refracted in the other.

If you would like to find out more about the group please contact Hilary Smith Email: <u>hilary.smith@xtranex.co.uk</u>

Mobile: 07786 073220

News from the Parish Council

on roads and cycle paths

he May Parish Council meeting was the Annual meeting which meant that there were more administrative issues to approve than in previous meetings. Rather than repeat what is already covered in the minutes of the meeting, it is better to comment on specific points. Hence this month's report is quite short.

NMU (Non-Motorised User) Access - update

Unfortunately, there is very little to report on the issue of the non-motorised user route (i.e. cycle path) on Oakington Road. Our County Councillor was not at the meeting and so was unable to provide any further information other than what had been reported previously. From the Parish Council's perspective, we were able to confirm that we had had confirmation that the process for Cambridge County Council to acquire the required land from National Highways was progressing, but nothing further. I have also written to our MP, Anthony Browne, to bring the issue to his attention.

A meeting is to be scheduled with representatives of the GCP (Greater Cambridge Partnership) to discuss this NMU and the one to link the village to the proposed Scotland Farm Travel Hub. This is likely to be a standalone meeting and all residents of the village would be welcome to air their views.

Condition of the village roads

As mentioned previously, I had hoped to meet with Cllr Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport, during May. Unfortunately, this did not happen, and a meeting will be scheduled for later in the year. However, I did have a meeting with people from Highways to discuss the flooding in parts of the village. There are several areas in the village which suffer from flooding, and these were brought to their attention. I was advised that the drains will be jetted and their condition investigated by camera to determine what actions are required. Further the roadside grips (shallow drainage channel at the side of the road) along Scotland Road will be cleared to assist drainage. I am waiting for confirmation of when this work will be carried out and shall report back.

Village Spring Clean

On the last Saturday of April, there was a flurry of activity to tidy the village in readiness for the celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III. Not only was there a team in the Village Hall making it ready for the for the following weekend, but there was a team of volunteers who spent a couple of hours or so in the late spring sunshine collecting rubbish from the verges of the village. Around 15 bags of rubbish were left by the

village hall for collection by South Cambs the following Monday. The items collected by the team included various car parts (from the A1307 verges), a dog bed, cushion from an armchair, and numerous fast food and drink containers. There were three separate incidents of fly-tipping at the entrance to the sewage works on the Oakington Road which one of the team reported. Similarly, the remains of signage from the A14 works were found in the long verges and were also reported.



One observation which was made was that there were far fewer facemasks this year than there had been previously. A reflection of the times.

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be Monday 12 June at 19.30 (please note the later start time and change of day), and Monday 10 July at 19.00 (again, please note the change of day and start time).

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

Dry Drayton Parish News County Report May 2023

County Councillor Edna Murphy

s everyone can se, potholes are a huge problem throughout Cambridgeshire (and elsewhere in the country too) - for cyclists, cars, buses, ambulances, other vehicles and anyone wanting to use the roads. We are working hard locally to do what we can to deal with this difficult problem.

Last week in Cambridgeshire 10k potholes were recorded, and 2.7k repaired. This time last year the number of potholes recorded was half this. There are problems throughout the country but in Cambridgeshire there are particular difficulties in South Cambs and Cambridge. The real problem is the legacy of longterm underinvestment in road repairs, which makes roads vulnerable to defects. Add extreme weather and the defects appear. Current economic conditions and in particular inflationary cost increases across the highways maintenance industry (20-25% pa) mean that we have a lot more to do with a lot less.

What County officers have done is:

- work intensively with delivery partners, Milestone, and with the supply chain to secured additional resources relatively quickly
- increase the resources that have gone into pothole repairs – double the teams fixing potholes and more than double the number of 'dragon patchers'
- recognise that the supplier contract we have inherited is poor and must change, it is especially weak on Quality Monitoring the contractor's work.

A positive note is that we have deployed a more sophisticated surveying technology which can detect clusters of defects before they become fully fledged potholes, and feed the information to repair teams. Not only is this preventive work cheaper to carry out, it helps prevent all the disruption experienced in the future. This will be worked on over the summer and autumn ahead of next winter.

Thank you to everyone who has highlighted issues, and please keep logging the faults in the County's reporting system as this really helps officers to organise their work https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/

Dry Drayton road conditions - inspection

The County inspected Dry Drayton's roads recently, identifying sections that are deteriorating and sections where repairs are likely to be required soon.

Officers have identified actions required in the short and medium term - note many of these are subject to monitoring and obviously as problems arise the response can change too:

- Madingley Road, Dry Drayton and Dry Drayton Road, Madingley: potentially suitable for re-tread in medium
- Scotland Road: requires patches and potholes repairs
- Park Street (thru village): showing signs of more major deterioration, need localised patching
- Park Lane: patches and potholes to be done soon but in medium term requires resurfacing using re-tread
- Oakington Road, In village: localised patching on edge
- St Neots Road, generally in ok condition but will monitor and repair any safety defects as they occur

Flooding update

Officers have commissioned work to camera trace and survey the whole drainage system along Scotland Road and are in the process of identifying owners of the ditches so these can e cleared. The officer will ensure all Scotland Road grips are part of the Safe and Dry grip cutting sites for this year. This should make a significant difference.

But there continue to be persistent flooding around Park Street and officers are investigating this. They plan to do a full camera trace and survey here as well, including full jetting and ditch clearing, as well as lowering the gully and concrete surround in a drain in Park Street. There is a drain across unregistered land which requires investigation, it may well be that problems here are contributing to some of the persistent problems.

Please don't hesitate to get back to me with any issues or queries: edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



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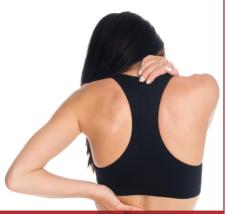
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