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talking civic sense

NEWSLETTER

January 2019



NEW BUILD ON MAIN STREET

2019 has started with arrival of the builders in Main Street. Mr Andy Clayton of the Pink House is having a 2 bedroom cottage built within the area of his yard/ garden. The drawing above shows its sympathetic styling which will match the proportions of the 3 cottages to its eastward boundary.



CLEAN UP FOR SPRING Saturday 16th February

Hartford Conservation Group invites you to spend an hour or so by joining our volunteers to get the public areas and verges ready for the Spring.

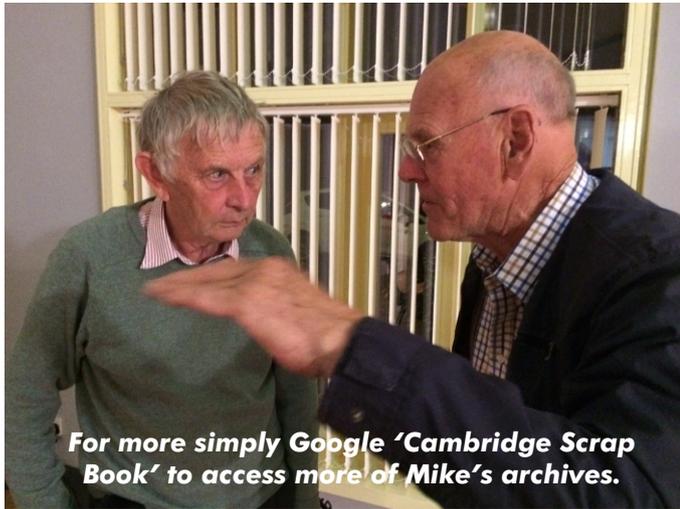
Please meet at the Village Hall at 10.00am. We will have waste sacks, some gloves and litter pickers but all the better if you bring your own.

Call Mike Humphrey for details on 436444.

Hartford Xmas Lights

Thank you to everyone who assisted with or attended the Xmas Lights Event. Special thanks go to the Hartford School Choir and the WI for teas and cakes.

Whilst we 'broke even', these events are increasingly expensive (insurance, 1st Aid and safety provisions cost over £400) and Juliet Cole is currently seeking funding to facilitate Xmas Lights 2019.



For more simply Google 'Cambridge Scrap Book' to access more of Mike's archives.

Recalling the floods of 1947

The Group held its Annual General Meeting on 16th October when the Committee and Officers for 2018/19 were elected.

Following the business part of the evening Chairman Mike Humphrey introduced the speaker, Mike Petty, who took us back to the floods of 1947. 100 square miles of Fenland were flooded, including many villages along the Great Ouse. 1947 began with heavy frosts which made the ground very hard. Next came the heavy snow, which fell on to the already frozen ground. Very quickly the snow began to melt and because the ground was frozen due to the earlier frost there was nowhere for the melted snow to go but to channel its way into the rivers. Rivers were unable to cope with the speed and quantity of water, river banks weakened and collapsed. Over Fen flooded and residents had to evacuate, farmers had to move animals and machinery to higher ground. German PoW's helped to secure river banks. It was a national disaster and servicemen from the Army and RAF were drafted in to help. When one river bank collapsed it was decided to fill the gap by forming a metal box using American amphibious tanks. The Denver Sluice could not cope with the flood water as it coincided with high tide in the Wash. The sluice gates could not be opened to let the flood water out as the sea water would rush in. The harvest the following year was very good as the flood water brought back fertility to the land.

Lessons were learned from the floods and the new Denver Sluice was built and the New River that runs to Kings Lynn constructed. Water is stored in the New River and piped to Newmarket and then to Essex.

Questions were taken from the floor and Mike Humphrey thanked the speaker for a very interesting talk delivered in Mike Petty's own inimitable style.



New Ouse Valley Trust launched

Many of you will recall a talk we had around 5 years ago re the proposed designation of a Area of Outstanding Beauty status to the Great Ouse valley from Paxton Pits to Erith. Whilst still awaiting a decision from Natural England, the local group have formed a new trust to aid cooperation with the many like minded groups that serve this area. Initial details can be seen on www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk



Keep up to date with your local Conservation Group: minutes of our Committee Meetings are now displayed in our notice board at the bottom of Sapley Road and online at www.hartfordconservation.org.uk.

This newsletter is produced by Mike Humphrey of the Hartford Conservation Group who can be contacted on 01480 436 444 or email info@hartfordconservation.org.uk .