

# SouthCambs

Magazine

[www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)

Spring 2024

## Our Business Plan and Budget

Page 8

## Parking enforcement changes

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## Gardening for nature in spring

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## WIN


A Capybara Experience at Shepreth Wildlife Park

See page 46



Opening the new Northstowe sports pavilion. Photo: davidjohnsonphotographic.co.uk

News in brief | Your Council | Planning | Transport | Elections  
Recycling and waste | Housing | Shop local | Communities  
Climate and environment | Competition

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# Hello

## Welcome to the spring issue of South Cambs Magazine

It's the time of year when we look ahead to our Business Plan priorities for the forthcoming 12 months and set our budget. You can find out more about our plans to deliver for residents and businesses in South Cambridgeshire during the year ahead on page 8.

Civil Parking Enforcement is now live in South Cambridgeshire, following a joint effort between us, Cambridgeshire County Council, and the Greater Cambridge Partnership. It means drivers are now far more likely to receive a fine for parking incorrectly where there are restrictions – including on single or double yellow lines. See page 18 to read more.

Elsewhere, many of us will be thinking about having a spring clean – so now is the perfect time to be thinking about giving

your recycling habits a tidy-up too. It is hugely important that the recycling you put in your blue bin is clean; if it isn't, there's a chance it could mean a whole lorry load of recycling gets rejected and ends-up in landfill. It's simple to prevent this – so check out our tips on page 23.

Finally, the milder weather is here and so is the next part in our series on gardening for nature through our different seasons. Whether it's the benefits of less frequent grass-cutting or going peat-free – check out our latest tips on page 40.

Enjoy the magazine.

**CLlr Bridget Smith**  
Leader  
South Cambridgeshire District Council



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### Summer 2024 Edition

The next issue of South Cambs Magazine will be delivered between **Monday 27 May and Saturday 8 June**.

Contact Smart Distribution for delivery enquiries.

✉ [scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk](mailto:scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk)  
☎ 0800 6444 011

## Contact us

### It's easier to contact us online

You can do more online at a time to suit you. Did you know you can complete a short form to update your Council Tax bill if you've moved; report a change in your circumstances related to your Benefits; or report a missed bin collection?

🖱 [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)

You can also create a My South Cambs account, to see personalised information – such as your Council Tax payments or your Benefits account.

🖱 <https://mysouthcambs.scambs.gov.uk>

Or you can email us, phone us, write to us, visit our offices, or get in touch using our social media channels.

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📍 South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambs Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

👤 Our office opening hours are 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. If you come to the office, we'll try our very best to resolve your query there and then. If we can't, our advisors will book you a follow-up appointment when you will be able to speak to someone from our relevant service. Alternatively, you can book your own appointment at [www.scambs.gov.uk/book-an-appointment](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/book-an-appointment)

📘 South Cambridgeshire

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## Putting residents first

### If you phone us we will:

- resolve your enquiry as quickly as possible
- provide voicemail if the person you need is unavailable
- answer your phone message within three working days.

### If you write to us we will:

- reply to your letter or email within 10 working days.

### If we write to you we will:

- write in plain language
- arrange for translation, large type, braille or audio tapes upon request.

### If we visit you we will:

- carry identification that you can check with a phone call to us
- arrive at the time we say we will, or give you as much notice as possible if we have to change the time.

### If we get it wrong we will:

- apologise if we have made a mistake or failed to meet our standards
- acknowledge your written complaint within three working days
- reply in full to your complaint within 10 working days.

## Assisted Digital Service Support

We have set up Assisted Digital Service Support to ensure that nobody is excluded from completing an online application or e-form due to difficulty with digital skills or access to a computer. Eligible customers are offered telephone support or face to face support by one of our contact centre advisors. Your local library or parish council hub can also help.

➔ [www.scams.gov.uk/contact-us](http://www.scams.gov.uk/contact-us)



## News in brief



### Modern day slavery

It's easy to think that slavery is something which only existed in the past. However, modern slavery is a serious crime and continues to be committed across the UK today. It can take many forms including forced labour, servitude and the trafficking of people. Victims of modern slavery are not just adults. In 2021, 5,468 children were identified as potential victims in the UK.

#### Indicators of modern day slavery include:

- wearing unsuitable clothes for the work or weather.
- appearing to be under the control of someone else and reluctant to interact with others.
- working excessively long hours.
- looking uneasy, unkempt, or malnourished.
- having untreated injuries.

#### If you are concerned that slavery might be taking place:

- call 999 if it is an emergency.
- call 101 for non-emergencies.
- call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.
- call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700.
- report it at [www.modernslaveryhelpline.org](http://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org)



### Help tackle ATM cash machine ram-raids

Police and Neighbourhood Watch have launched ATM Watch to raise awareness of how the public can help police anticipate and stop ATM cash machines being ram-raided. You can:

- install trackers on high-performance cars and heavy vehicles, such as Transits and flat beds, which could be used in a ram-raid.
- raise concerns if anything doesn't feel quite right, such as plant vehicles travelling during the hours of darkness, or that are not usually in the area and appear to have been left parked for a few days.
- consider installing video doorbells or CCTV on your home which could capture something vital.
- report anything suspicious, including anyone taking photos or attaching 'out of order' signs to ATM machines.

If you have any information or concerns, report to Police online or call 101, quoting Op ATMosphere. Always call 999 in an emergency.

For more information on joining an ATM Watch, visit [www.cnwa.org.uk/atm-watch](http://www.cnwa.org.uk/atm-watch)



## Children's sports holiday camps

Join our popular athletics and netball camps for children of all abilities in school Year Three to Year Nine this Easter. Led by qualified coaches, the camps offer a fantastic opportunity for kids to try out a variety of different activities and learn new skills in a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment. Children can attend either a netball or athletics camp, or both.

### Easter dates

- Athletics: 8 and 9 April – Cambridge University Track
- Netball: 10 and 11 April – Impington Sports Centre

For full details and to book go to our website.

➔ [www.scambs.gov.uk/sportscamps](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/sportscamps)



## More new Council homes

Families will soon be enjoying more newly-built, modern Council homes. 23 new homes have been signed over at the Redrow Homes developments in All Saints Gardens in Barrington and Cottenham Grove in Cottenham. The properties are a mix of shared ownership and affordable rent houses as well as affordable rent maisonettes.

All homes benefit from modern double-glazed windows and high-quality insulation as well as boasting a high specification on the build. Some homes also have electric vehicle charge points.

To apply for an affordable home, visit our website at [www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/apply-for-housing](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/apply-for-housing)

## Let's improve our health together

Discover a healthier you with our Active & Healthy 4 Life initiative, tailored for individuals managing everyday health conditions. Qualified instructors create personalised gym-based exercise programmes, encouraging twice-weekly attendance and offering advice on complementary activities like walking sports, cycling, and swimming. If you're 18 or older and aiming to manage conditions like high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, osteoporosis, arthritis, or asthma, or seeking post-operative support, this scheme could be for you. Simply ask your health professional to complete our website's referral form, then contact your preferred sports centre to schedule an instructor appointment.

Join for £20 per month for four months. For full details, visit [www.scambs.gov.uk/active](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/active) or email [AandH4L@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:AandH4L@scambs.gov.uk).



## Your guide to planning permission

Our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service with Cambridge City Council has launched an easy online checker to determine if planning permission is needed for projects like dormer windows, fences, porches, and more. Explore the checker for quick answers on various projects at <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications>

Are you considering solar panels? If so, the team have also expanded their content on planning permissions specifically related to solar panels. Find out more at <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/solar-panels>

## The Victim and Witness Hub

The Victim and Witness Hub is a free confidential telephone service. It provides emotional and practical support to victims or witnesses of crime in Cambridgeshire, whether the crime has been reported to the police or not.

The service can be accessed at any time from when the offence is committed, through any subsequent investigation, court proceedings and beyond, according to the needs of the individual. Outreach support is also available from specially trained volunteers.

Where appropriate referrals can be made to specialist services provided by partner and community organisations.

☎ 0800 781 6818

➔ [www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk](http://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk)



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# Business Plan and Budget update

As we went to print, our Councillors were going through our annual process of setting our Business Plan priorities – and our Budget – for the upcoming 12 months.

## Our four main Business Plan priorities are:

- Growing local businesses and economies
- Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in
- Being green to our core
- A modern and caring Council

We review our Business Plan annually to set new goals for the year ahead. On this page, there's a list of some of our achievements from the past year.



Our Mobile Food Hub with Hope CIC has supported residents during the cost-of-living crisis.



The opening of the new sports pavilion and pitches we've delivered at Northstowe.

## Growing local businesses and economies



- We created 109 pop-up and market trading opportunities, including 72 traders and five food vans at our Cambourne Christmas Market, which welcomed 1,500 visitors.
- Our Visit South Cambs website has seen an average of almost 1,900 monthly visitors.
- We helped six new markets to set up, with more to come!

## Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in



- We're on track to deliver almost 50 new Council homes by the end of March.
- Stock condition surveys have been completed at our Council homes to inform our retrofit plans.
- We've bought 15 empty homes back into use.

## Being green to our core



- We awarded £125,000 in Zero Carbon Communities grants to help local groups tackle climate change – taking the total awarded so far to more than £500,000.
- The Council achieved bronze Carbon Literate certification.
- We supported the latest round of the Solar Together Cambridgeshire scheme – leading to 569 solar panel and 547 battery installations.

## A modern and caring Council



- We launched our online webchat service.
- We delivered a temporary community centre for Northstowe, achieved planning permission for the Northstowe permanent community centre and opened the new Northstowe sports pavilion and pitches.
- The Council rolled-out and promoted a network of Domestic Abuse Champions.



The site of our planned solar farm to power electric bin lorries.

**‘We charge one of the lowest Council Taxes in the country to provide a range of services to residents and businesses. The Council Tax you pay funds a wide range of vital public services across the district and Cambridgeshire as a whole.’**

**What’s next?**

During the year ahead, we have exciting plans to further support residents and businesses. Our draft Business Plan proposes that we plan to do many things, including.....

- Provide space for start-ups and small businesses via our main office and commercial premises.
- Promote the district’s high streets, commercial areas, and markets.
- Deliver 75 new council homes for rent and shared ownership.
- Produce a Housing Strategy setting out how we will meet housing challenges.
- Review arrangements for the protection of trees and hedgerows.
- Continue our work to decarbonise the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste fleet we share with Cambridge City Council – such as by investing in low emissions or alternative fuel bin lorries and progressing plans for a solar farm to power electric trucks.
- Use Artificial Intelligence to provide direct support to residents outside of office hours.
- Provide additional support to arts and culture projects.



Northstowe’s new 4G pitch is designed for football and rugby matches.

Council Leader, Cllr Bridget Smith, commented:

**“ The achievements on the previous page are just a tiny snapshot of what we have achieved in the past year. I am incredibly proud of what we are delivering for residents – be it the wonderful new sports facilities at Northstowe, more new, modern and energy efficient Council homes or our innovative support during the cost-of-living crisis.**

**Similarly, we have many more interesting aspirations for the year ahead; far too many to list in the space we have here.**

**Keep an eye on [www.scambs.gov.uk/business-plan](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/business-plan) for the details as councillors confirm our priorities.**



We’re investing in electric and alternative fuel bin lorries to reduce carbon emissions.

funding is also generated from our investments. A £5 per year increase in Council Tax for the average band D home was due to be discussed by councillors at the Full Council meeting at the end of February, just after we went to print. This would help to ensure essential frontline services continue to be delivered effectively. If a rise is agreed, it would mean the average band D home charge for South Cambridgeshire District Council would become £170.31 per year. This would maintain our position among the lowest 25% of taxing District Councils in the country.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr John Williams, said:

**“ We’re proud to be a financially sound Council – but times continue to be tough for everyone and councils are no exception. It’s important to remember that we only retain a very small amount of the Council Tax we collect; most of it gets passed on. We’re doing all we can via an ambitious Transformation programme to make the very best use of every pound that we receive.**

**Balancing the budget**

We charge one of the lowest Council Taxes in the country to provide a range of services to residents and businesses. The Council Tax you pay funds a wide range of vital public services across the district and Cambridgeshire as a whole. We only retain around 7.6% of the Council Tax we collect, with the rest being passed on to other organisations who provide key services to the public.

As well as Council Tax, our other funding sources include some that are outside of our control, such as Business Rates and grants, whilst



# Help with your rent and Council Tax

There may be support available if you are struggling to pay your rent or Council Tax.

## Help with your rent

Our Discretionary Housing Payment scheme helps people who receive Housing Benefit or the housing element within Universal Credit but are still unable to pay their full rent. As well as helping to cover the rent, Discretionary Housing Payments can also help with the cost of moving and if you have a Benefit cap applied to either your housing benefit or Universal Credit.

## Social housing under occupation

If you are under-occupying your social property, you can apply for the under-occupation scheme to get help moving to a smaller property. This can reduce housing or rent costs whilst freeing up larger properties for families who are waiting to be housed.

You can find out more and apply for Discretionary Housing Payments or our under-occupation scheme at [www.scambs.gov.uk/benefits/help-with-paying-your-rent](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/benefits/help-with-paying-your-rent)



## Help with your Council Tax

If you are responsible for paying Council Tax for the property you live in and you are struggling to pay, the following may help:

- If you have not already applied for Council Tax Support, you can make an application online. Even if you are working you may still qualify. You can use the calculator on our website which will give you an estimate of any entitlement.
- If you're of State Pension age, the Second Adult Rebate could help you with Council Tax if you live with an adult (someone 18 or older) who isn't your partner and is not liable to pay Council Tax themselves, is on a low income or does not pay you rent on a commercial basis (like a tenant or lodger).
- You may be eligible for a discount such as the Single Person Discount.
- If you do not currently pay Council Tax instalments in February and March, we can spread your remaining instalments to include payments during these months.

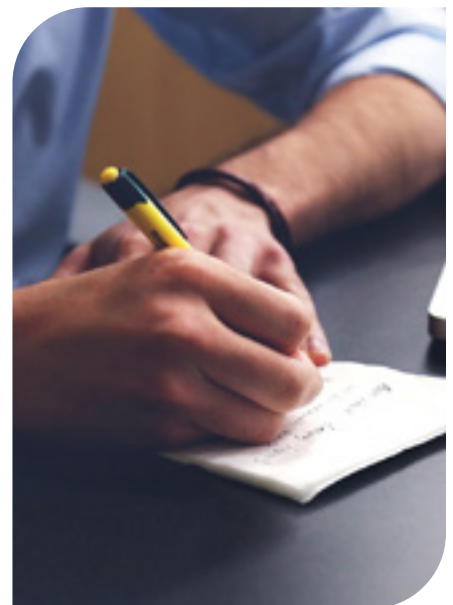
To find out more about any of the above, visit [www.scambs.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/council-tax)

## Accessing your information

You can access your Council Tax account and benefits information online 24/7.

- See your bills and benefit letters.
- Tell us about changes such as who lives with you and when you move.
- Make payments.
- Sign-up to pay your Council Tax via Direct Debit.
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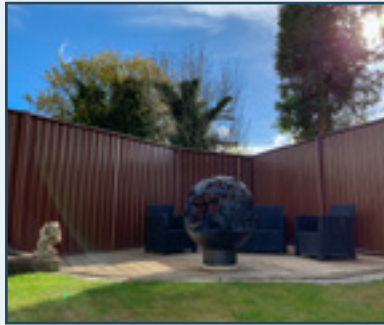
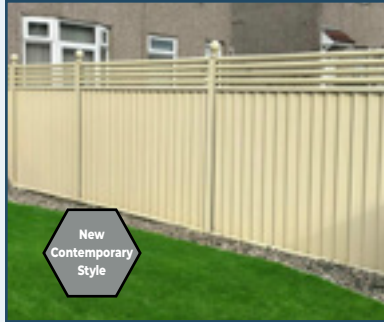
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# Prestigious awards for our Youth Engagement Service

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning's Youth Engagement Service (YES) won the coveted Best Local Authority and Individual Youth Engagement Practitioner of the Year Awards at a ceremony held at the Building Centre in London.

The latest Inspire Future Generations Awards, initiated by Thornton Education Trust (TET), celebrate exceptional efforts in youth engagement by architects and built environment professionals, spotlighting individuals and organisations that go beyond mere tick-box commitments to produce meaningful participation and co-design.

Our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSP) with Cambridge City Council has been recognised as one of the few UK Local Authorities that commits resources to ensure effective youth engagement. Judges were particularly impressed by GCSP's pioneering methods for approaching youth engagement and architectural education to deliver social value.

Tom Davies, Urban Designer and an integral member of the YES team, secured the title of Individual Youth Engagement Practitioner of the Year. This accolade recognises Tom for his profound experience and extensive knowledge in the field of youth engagement and for going the extra mile to engage with children and young people who are often underrepresented in the architectural design and engagement process.

In addition to their wins, the YES team were also finalists in multiple categories including Social Value, Community Engagement, Long-term Programme - Children, and Mentoring Awards.

Cllr Dr. Tumi Hawkins, our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, said:

**“ Youth engagement is not just key; it's the very heartbeat of a vibrant and progressive society. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning's Youth Engagement team are experts at tapping into the energy, innovation, and fresh perspectives of young minds.**

**When we actively involve and empower our youth, we unlock the potential for a brighter, more inclusive future. Congratulations to the team for their wins at the TET Inspire Future Generations Awards. They are thoroughly deserved.**



Urban Designer Tom Davies with his award. Photo: Tunde Valiszka

Victoria Thornton, Founder of Thornton Education Trust, said: “Educating, empowering and inspiring the next generation will only make for a better, creative and more inclusive, diverse society. Creating more opportunities for young people to influence their local environment and participate in the development of their communities is absolutely necessary. The Awards celebrate those who contribute to achieving this goal, ensuring our built environment authentically mirrors the needs, aspirations and values of its most important stakeholders – the next generation.”

YES Team Lead and Principal Urban Designer, Dr. Bonnie Kwok, said: “We are grateful for the recognition and appreciation of our efforts by all the judges in ensuring children and young people have a genuine voice in development proposals, planning polices and master planning in Greater Cambridge.”



The Youth Engagement Service team winning coveted awards. Photo: Tunde Valiszka



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# Children and planners join forces to design bird boxes and bug hotels

At Fowlmere Primary School, a fun youth engagement project saw pupils give their views about the design of a lab and office proposal at the former Welding Alloys site.

Officers from our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning's Youth Engagement Service (YES) and developer Gen Two ran the workshop with 30 youngsters from school years five and six.

Designed by the YES Team, based on its established Youth Engagement Framework, the event gave children the opportunity to have a genuine say in how buildings and public open spaces in the proposed development should be designed.

YES team members and the developer engaged the children in discussions

about specific proposals and fundamental place-making principles as well as inspiring future generations to consider careers in town planning and urban design.

The children enjoyed a site visit and were asked to design the bespoke street furniture, public art, bird boxes and bug hotels for the site. Their ideas will be incorporated in the layout of the scheme, which went on to achieve planning approval in November 2023.

Prizes were awarded to those who came up with the most creative designs.

District councillors Cllr. Richard Stobart and Cllr. Dr James Hobro and parish councillor David Brock also attended.



Greater Cambridge Shared Planning's youth engagement event at Fowlmere Primary School. Photo: So Motive

## Amazing park benches designed by school children

Park benches, including one shaped like a sausage dog that actually barks, have recently been revealed at Melbourn Science Park.

Bruntwood SciTech, the UK's largest specialist property provider, has unveiled the winners of a STEM competition for new street furniture designed by Melbourn Primary School pupils.

60 pupils aged between nine and 11 took part in the furniture design competition as part of a series of events designed by our Youth Engagement Service (YES) Team, to engage pupils on architecture, town planning, urban design and biodiversity.

The winning designs, from five pupils in year six, have been made

into fully functional furniture and will be installed both at Melbourn Science Park as part of its redevelopment, and at Melbourn Primary School.



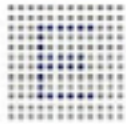
Photographs at Melbourn Science Park: Jacob Milligan

Cllr Dr. Tumi Hawkins, our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning said:

“ Thank you to the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Youth Engagement Team for another inspirational event, ensuring the participation of our next generation of planners and facilitating the creation of imaginative outdoor furniture that will stand the test of time. It's essential we engage with our young people and other under-represented groups. ”







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# New scheme to tackle illegal parking is live

Civil parking enforcement officers are now out on the streets of South Cambridgeshire issuing fines to drivers parking where they shouldn't – like on single or double yellow lines.

Just before Christmas, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) received final confirmation from the Government that Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) was given the green light in the district.

As a result, parking has been decriminalised so CCC Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) can issue a Penalty Charge Notice (parking ticket) for on-street parking offences such as parking on double yellow or single yellow lines. Before the introduction of CPE in South Cambridgeshire, only Police could do this.

Between the end of last year and the end of January this year, information was placed on vehicles parked where there are restrictions – but not a fine – to give drivers a final chance to find a suitable parking spot. Fines began being issued from February.

It is therefore now even more important motorists always check lines and signs or other notices in the area when parking. You can check The Highway Code if you are not sure what a sign or line means.

Under CPE powers, CEOs cannot enforce all restrictions. Restrictions such as dangerous parking, obstruction of the footway and moving traffic offences will continue to be enforced by Police and need to be reported to them.

CPE patrols are focussing on areas where parking demand is the greatest such as around railway stations. They are being shaped in-line with resources and may include evenings and weekends.



Our Lead Cabinet Member for Communities, Cllr Bill Handley, said:

“ We have worked with partners to introduce CPE in response to the frustrations parishes had due to lack of enforcement. This was most acute around railway stations and busy high streets. We've ensured that drivers have had plenty of warning about its introduction – and now the scheme is live it is even more important to fully consider the lines and signs around where you may be parking. We're hopeful all the advance publicity has helped with this transition. ”



The initial set-up costs to get CPE underway in the district have been covered by the Greater Cambridge Partnership – because parking where there are restrictions adds to congestion.

Cllr Elisa Meschini, Chairperson of the Greater Cambridge Partnership executive board, said:

“ We are really pleased that City Deal funding has been able to deliver Civil Parking Enforcement in South Cambridgeshire which should make a positive impact on Cambridgeshire County Council's ability to enforce on-street parking offences. This will make it much more likely that people who park incorrectly will be sanctioned. This should help keep traffic moving freely and help support safer roads for everyone. ”



Visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CPE](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CPE) for more details.



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# Important changes to how you vote

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections will be held on 2 May this year, with a General Election also due to take place at some point over the next year.

It's important that residents are aware that the law around voting has changed.

When you visit a polling station to vote this year, you will need to show the staff in the station photographic ID. You can view a full list of qualifying identity documents on our website. The list includes your passport or photographic drivers' licence amongst a range of other forms of ID. If you are unable to present a valid form of ID, the staff will not be able to give you a ballot paper.

Residents without a valid ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC).

Applications can be made online at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)

If you are unable to apply online, you should contact our Elections Office who will be happy to help.

The deadline to make an application for a VAC is **six working days before an election**. We strongly encourage residents to apply for their VAC as soon as possible.

To vote in any election you must also be registered to vote. If you are already registered we will send you a poll card around five weeks before the election. If you think you aren't registered, you should apply online now at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

Your application needs to be made at least 12 working days before an election. You don't need to register again if you are already registered. Remember - you are more likely to not be registered if you have recently moved house or changed your name.



## Applying to vote by post or proxy

If you are likely to be away when an election is taking place, you can apply to vote by post or by proxy.

You can now apply to vote by post or proxy online at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote) or [www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote](http://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote)

You must be registered to vote before you can apply to vote by post or proxy. To make an application you will need to provide your national insurance number and to upload a clear copy of your signature.



## Getting help

All the information you need can be found on our website at [www.scambs.gov.uk/elections](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/elections)

If you need help, email us at [elections@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:elections@scambs.gov.uk) and we will be happy to give you any support you need.



# REMEMBER TO

- 1- Register to vote
- 2- Check my photo ID
- 3- Vote at a polling station!

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

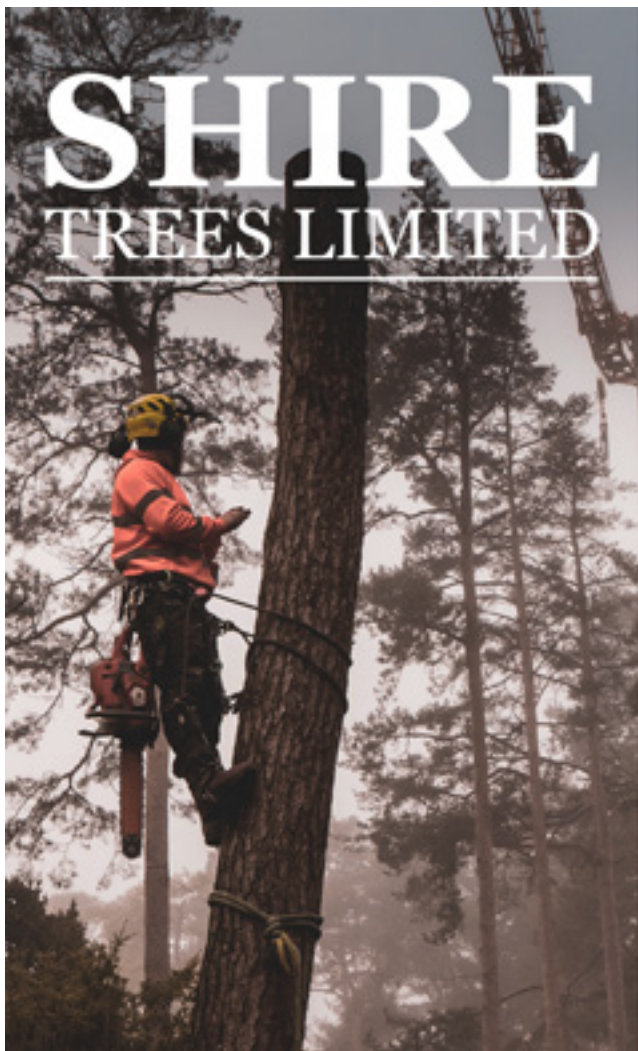
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# Give your recycling habits a Spring Clean

Most people rinse their containers before recycling – do you?

It's so important to give tins, jars, ready-meal trays and even takeaway containers a quick wash and tip out the water before you pop them in your blue bin. Here's why:

- It's more hygienic, as recycling is partly sorted by people.
- Food or drink left in containers leaks out, making card or paper in the bin or lorry wet or dirty. This makes it unsuitable for recycling, so it goes to waste.
- Dirty containers are worth less, which means it costs more overall to collect and recycle them.

Each time a lorry-load of recycling is dropped off at the sorting plant it is inspected. Your clean jars, bottles and tins are not rubbish, they are raw materials for making useful things with, and they are needed. However, if too much of it is dirty with food, or it contains too many incorrect items like nappies (collectively known as

'contamination'), the whole lot can be rejected and put in landfill. Regular samples are taken to check the overall percentage of contamination, and we are charged if this goes over a certain percentage.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Cllr Henry Batchelor, said:

“ By taking a moment to rinse and prepare our recyclables properly, we contribute to the success of recycling programmes and reduce contamination. Recycling is our collective responsibility to help create a cleaner and healthier environment. ”



## Our water-saving clean recycling tips

- If you're cooking using tinned food like tomatoes, use the tin to add any water or stock that the recipe needs – it'll use up the contents and rinse the can too.
- Rinse containers in the used water after you wash up your plates and dishes – it only takes a few seconds.
- For jars, scoop up some washing-up water, replace the lid and shake. Empty and you're done!
- Putting on a dishwasher? Fill any gaps with stubborn peanut butter jars or greasy ready-meal trays to make sure you put on a full load.
- Always empty bottles before recycling, even if they only contain water. As well as making paper wet, the liquid makes the bottles too heavy to be correctly sorted. Squash and replace the cap to save space, keep drips inside, and enable the lid to be recycled.

## How clean does my recycling need to be?



Don't let your recycling go to waste – rinse before you recycle. Thank you!





# Bin collection calendar

Bins must be put out by 6am on your collection day. Close lids fully. Please report missed collections between 3:30pm on collection day and 3:30pm the next working day. For advice on how to leave out extra recycling for collection and other policies, see [www.scambbs.gov.uk/bins](http://www.scambbs.gov.uk/bins)

**The Good Friday collection on 29 March will be four days early and instead take place on Monday 25 March.**

## Batteries and vapes in bin lorries cause fires!

Vapes can be taken back to vape shops or to the large Household Recycling Centres for recycling.

Small household batteries can be put in a small plastic bag, tied shut and left on the top of your bin on collection day.

Larger batteries such as e-bike batteries should be taken to Household Recycling Centres.

## GROUP A

### TUESDAY

Coton, Great and Little Chishill, Great Shelford, Heydon, Hinxton, Ickleton, Little Shelford, South Trumpington, Stapleford, Whittlesford

### WEDNESDAY

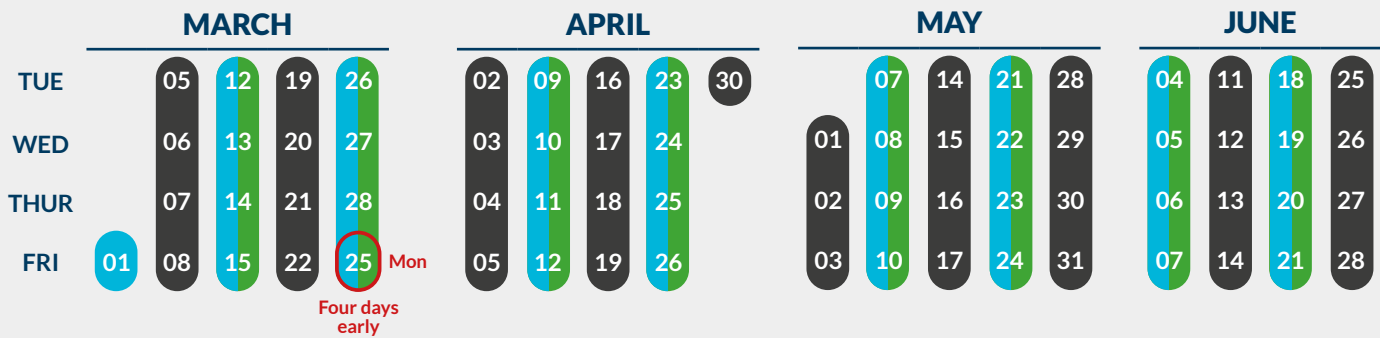
Balsham, Carlton, Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Great Wilbraham, Horningsea, Horseheath, Landbeach, Little Wilbraham, Six Mile Bottom, Stow-Cum-Quy, Teversham, Waterbeach, West Wickham, West Wrating, Weston Colville

### THURSDAY

Abington Pigotts, Barton, Bassingbourn, Cambourne (Great - south of High St.), Caldecote, Chittering, Comberton, Grantchester, Great Eversden, Guilden Morden, Hardwick, Harlton, Haslingfield, Kingston, Litlington, Little Eversden, Madingley, Milton, Odsey, Orchard Park, Orwell, Shingay-Cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Toft, Whaddon, Wimpole

### FRIDAY

Boxworth, Childerley, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Fen Drayton, Graveley, Knapwell, Longstanton, Northstowe, Papworth Everard, Papworth St. Agnes, Swavesey



● Blue & Green bin   
 ● Black bin only   
 ● Blue bin only   
    Change of date

## GROUP B

### TUESDAY

Barrington, Duxford, Fowlmere, Foxton, Harston, Hauxton, Melbourn, Meldreth, Newton, Shepreth, Thriplow

### WEDNESDAY

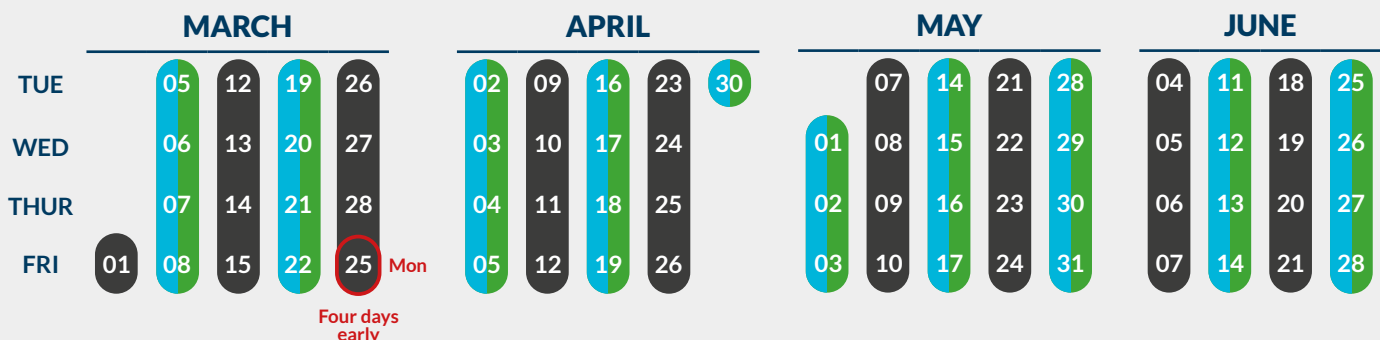
Babraham, Bartlow, Castle Camps, Great Abington, Hildersham, Horseheath (Cardinal's Green), Linton, Little Abington, Pampisford, Sawston, Shudy Camps

### THURSDAY

Arrington, Bar Hill, Bourn, Cambourne (West, Lower, Upper and Great - north of High St.), Caxton, Croydon, Dry Drayton, Gamlingay, Girton, Hatley, Little Gransden, Lolworth, Longstowe, Tadlow

### FRIDAY

Cottenham, Histon, Impington, Oakington & Westwick, Over, Rampton, Willingham



# What can you recycle through your blue bin?

**Yes**

Remember to rinse food containers

✓ Clean ✓ Empty ✓ Don't bag it



Cardboard



Paper & magazines



Tins, cans & foil



Aerosol cans



Shredded paper (in envelope or clear sack)



Glass bottles & jars



Cartons



Plastic pots, tubs, trays & empty bags



Plastic bottles

Please put used batteries in a clear plastic bag and NOT in your bin.

Place the bag on top of any of your wheelie bins. Batteries must not be put inside the bin. Small portable household batteries can be put in the clear bag - e.g. AA, AAA, 6v, 9v, D, C, button. Do not include mobile phone or laptop batteries. Instead take these to a Household Recycling Centre.



**No**

- ✗ Black bin bags or rubbish
- ✗ Nappies, tissues, kitchen paper, wipes & sanitary waste
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Glasses, flat glass or glass dishes
- ✗ Mirrors, Pyrex, plates/crockery

The following can be recycled elsewhere - check our website.

- ✗ Clothing and textiles
- ✗ Food, liquid or garden waste
- ✗ Wood, plasterboard & DIY waste
- ✗ Furniture or electricals
- ✗ Scrap metal e.g. pans
- ✗ Hard plastics e.g. bucket
- ✗ Crisp packets

# What can you compost through your green bin?

**Yes**



Untreated wood and sawdust



Garden waste



Cooked/uncooked food waste (including meat, fish and dairy)



Used paper tissues and kitchen paper

**No**

- ✗ Plastic & plastic bags
- ✗ Compostable bags e.g. Biobags
- ✗ Nappies, wipes and sanitary waste
- ✗ Soil or stones
- ✗ Painted or treated wood
- ✗ Cat or dog waste
- ✗ Plant pots and seedling trays
- ✗ Loose ash (wood ash CAN go in the green bin, but only if enclosed in paper bags)

# What rubbish can go in your black bin?

**Yes**

Please try to reduce rubbish that cannot be recycled or composted



General rubbish including nappies, wipes, sanitary waste, polystyrene, broken crockery or glassware (wrapped).

**No**

- ✗ Rubble/bricks
- ✗ Soil
- ✗ Very heavy items
- ✗ Electrical items
- ✗ Batteries
- ✗ Loose ash or vacuum dust. Please bag.



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# Navigating new building regulations

If you are considering your own home improvement project, you may need to consider whether you require Building Regulations approval.

3C Building Control is one of our shared services, and an award-winning partnership providing Local Authority Building Control across South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge and Huntingdonshire.

## What changes came into effect on 1 October 2023?

From 1 October 2023 significant new updates to the Building Regulations legislation have come into effect. This introduced changes to the Building Regulations application process - for example, additional information is now required to enable your application to be validated, including contact details and information about the project.

There are new duty holder roles and responsibilities in the new regulations for individuals involved in building projects. The aim is to place a stronger emphasis on complying



with regulations for both design and construction work.

- Client/Domestic Clients (formerly known as the Applicant): This applies to homeowners, now referred to as Domestic Clients, who might be planning a home improvement project.
- Principal Designer (previously known as the Agent): Responsible for overseeing the project's design phase.
- Principal Contractor (formerly known as the Builder): In charge of managing the construction phase.

All duty holders, including Homeowners (Domestic Clients), are required to establish systems and plans to effectively manage and monitor both the design and construction aspects of their project. This is to ensure that the project complies with the building regulations.

Where there is more than one person working on different aspects of the project, a Domestic Client should appoint a Principal Designer to

be in control of design work and a Principal Contractor to be in control of the building work.

## The importance of appointing a competent builder

Anyone who appoints a person or organisation has a legal duty to ensure they are competent. Competence means they possess the appropriate skills, knowledge, and behaviours, and, if a company, the organisational capabilities to carry out the design and building work they are engaged to do.

For more information, visit the Health and Safety Executive website at [www.hse.gov.uk/building-safety](http://www.hse.gov.uk/building-safety)

For further advice and to apply for a Building Regulation application visit [www.3csharedservices.org](http://www.3csharedservices.org) call 0300 77 29622 or email [buildingcontrol@3csharedservices.org](mailto:buildingcontrol@3csharedservices.org)





# Housing Advice and Homelessness support

We have carried out a review of our Housing Advice and Homelessness service to help us better understand local needs.

Homelessness in the district remains an issue, with on average 453 homeless applications each year. Overall, the main causes of homelessness are:

- family and friends no longer being able to accommodate.
- the end of an assured shorthold tenancy.
- domestic abuse.

**65% of those who approach us at prevention stage are successfully prevented from becoming homeless. In most cases this is due to securing alternative accommodation.**

Our Housing Advice and Homelessness service have also helped to house refugees. Since the Homes for Ukraine scheme began, over 600 sponsors have taken Ukrainian guests into their homes. There are currently around 230 guests from Ukraine being hosted in the district. During the past couple of years, we've had among the highest number of arrivals from Ukraine for any District Council area in the country. We have a moving on team who have been working to prevent homelessness where hosts can no longer accommodate their guests. We have rematched almost 130 guests with new hosts and have supported 120 guests into privately rented properties and another 59 into social housing.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr John Batchelor, said:

**“ If you are at risk of becoming homeless or are worried about your housing situation, it is important to act as soon as possible. We want to help you to resolve any issues you feel you may have in relation to your housing. The earlier you talk to us the more likely we are to be able to prevent you from becoming homeless. ”**



As well as housing advice, we have officers who can help to maximise your income, give you budgeting advice, assess affordability and signpost or refer you to specialist services. We have also developed a training package for new tenants.

If you feel unsafe, worried or controlled by someone you live with, we can help you get the support you need. We can give you advice and explore other housing options with you and assist you to access specialist services that can help and support you. We have full accreditation with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance and we understand that domestic abuse is not just about physical violence but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour and economic abuse.

Find out more information on our website [www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/housing-advice](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/housing-advice)

If you need to get in touch, contact us at [housingadvice@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:housingadvice@scambs.gov.uk) or 01954 713 000.



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# Homes for Ukraine Landlord Incentive Scheme

As the Homes for Ukraine (HFU) scheme continues, we want to help as many Homes for Ukraine guests into their own accommodation as possible.

We have received feedback from numerous guests that it is increasingly difficult to access the private rental sector due to the high costs of renting a property within South Cambridgeshire. As mentioned on page 28, this can mean support is needed from our Housing Advice and Homelessness service.

In response, we have launched a HFU Landlord Incentive scheme. The aim of this scheme is to provide more affordable and sustainable housing options for guests from Ukraine, without putting extra pressure on existing housing services.

Cllr Bill Handley, our Lead Cabinet Member for Communities, said:

“ Our aim is to give a supportive hand through helping landlords provide affordable rented properties locally. Together, let's create spaces where guests from Ukraine can rebuild their lives within our communities. ”



The landlord incentive scheme provides landlords with a payment if they offer their rental property to a HFU guest for a minimum of six months. This will be a payment up front when a tenancy agreement is signed, and the family have moved in.

Landlords can choose to either offer a tenancy at market rent, or at Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate. Both the type of rent they charge, and how many bedrooms the property has, will impact what payment the landlord will receive from us.

We will pay landlords a higher fee if they provide tenancies at the LHA rate, as this is more affordable for tenants, and provides long term stability. The local housing allowance (monthly) rates are as follows:

- One bedroom rate: £775.02
- Two-bedroom rate: £850.02
- Three-bedroom rate: £950
- Four-bedroom rate: £1300.01



A drawing from the children's "Ukraine is in my Heart" colouring competition.

We appreciate this may not be affordable for some landlords, so tenancies can still be offered at market rate and qualify for this scheme. For a full breakdown of the incentive payment offered for the initial six months, please see the below table:

No. of bedrooms	Market rent incentive	LHA rate incentive
1 Bedroom	£1,140	£2,280
2 Bedrooms	£1,300	£2,600
3 Bedrooms	£1,350	£2,750
4 Bedrooms	£1,410	£2,820

Once the initial six months has finished, if the landlord offers another tenancy at six months, 12 months, or monthly rolling, then the landlord will qualify for a further incentive payment. Once 18 months of tenancies have been offered, the landlord will no longer be eligible for further payments from us unless a new family moves into their property.

Find out more about this scheme at [www.scambs.gov.uk/hfu-landlord-incentive](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/hfu-landlord-incentive)

Or get in contact with us on [HFULiaison@Scambs.gov.uk](mailto:HFULiaison@Scambs.gov.uk) or 01954 713411.

# Support on offer from Cambs HIA

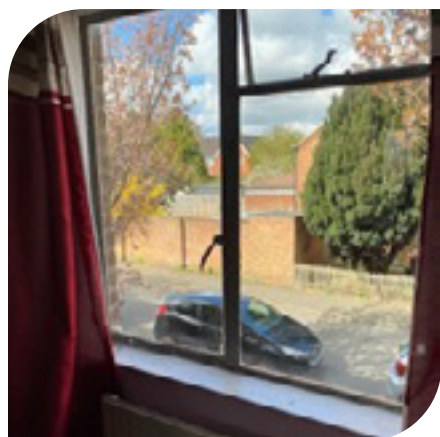
Cambs HIA is a shared council service operating across Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. Its primary focus is to support local people on low incomes with a long term health condition to adapt or repair their home to meet their needs.

Cambs HIA were recently awarded the National Excellence in Design Award at the Healthy Housing Awards in recognition of their varied and comprehensive designs when identifying solutions for home adaptations for people with disabilities.

For those on low incomes, work is funded by grants which Cambs HIA help local people access. Cambs HIA then co-ordinate any work needed.

Cambs HIA are also starting a new project to look at people who are not eligible for grants, whose home may not be fully suitable for their needs, and how they can be supported with alterations to make their home safe.

In South Cambridgeshire we are asking that local residents, who may have a neighbour or friend who is at risk of falls due to the condition of their home, get in touch with Cambs HIA. Their staff will come out and do a free home hazard assessment to discuss with that person the improvements that could be made to make their home safer and refer any specialist needs on to social services.



| An old window that needs replacing



| The Cambs HIA team with their National Excellence in Design Award

Perhaps you know someone who is having a lot of unplanned hospital admissions, or someone who you have noticed isn't as mobile as they once were, or maybe they are just less able to maintain the condition of their home - resulting in it falling into disrepair.

Cambs HIA can help with making the home warmer, replacing old windows and doors, improving ventilation, removing trip hazards such as uneven floor surfaces or inadequate lighting, installing ramps, widening doorways, and facilitate better access to some of the garden where paths are uneven.

After an initial assessment, the person will then know what hazards exist, if they are eligible for any grants and, if not, what help the Agency can give them to complete any work needed as a paying customer. This service is mainly aimed at those who own their own home, but it can assess and then refer

on to private or social landlords if there is a hazard that the landlord should be addressing.

The project will help inform an updated policy on home adaptations and repairs, and provide useful information about the types of hazards that exist in homes and those not accessing support.

For more information, contact Cambs HIA on [hia@cambshia.org](mailto:hia@cambshia.org) or telephone 01954 713330/713347.



| Do you know anybody who needs help improving their home?





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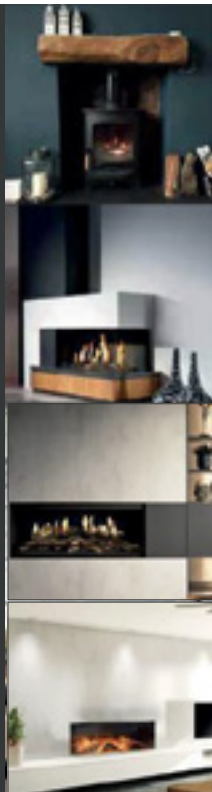
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# Hop along to local hospitality businesses this spring

It's been a tough time for businesses in the food and drink industry over the last few years.

Many have had to reduce opening times, while sadly lots had to close due to reduced custom post-COVID.

Pubs have been at the heart of local village life for hundreds of years and we want to help keep them open and keep that tradition going – but as the saying goes “if you don't use it, you'll lose it”.

Our dedicated tourism and hospitality website [visitsouthcambs.co.uk](https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk) is a shop window for our talented chefs, barristas, waiting staff and mixologists.

From the quirky, like the King William IV in Heydon, to modern locations like Shepreth's Hot Numbers Roastery and more traditional settings like Sheene Mill, there are plenty of venues across the region to visit, explore, discover and enjoy.

For international cuisine, you could try The Pergola in Harlton, Mohak Café's Thali evenings in Haslingfield or nip into the Kebab Station in Caxton Gibbett. Luke's Traditional Fish and Chips in Papworth Everard can supply you with an award-winning chippy tea – they even deliver.



Enjoy wonderful coffee at Hot Numbers Roastery in Shepreth.



Cllr Peter McDonald, our Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said:

“ **Something for everyone can be found in South Cambridgeshire so while we know times are hard, please show local businesses your support when you can. Our Visit South Cambs website supports the local economy by showcasing the area as a fantastic place to visit for traditional tourism, and highlights local attractions for those on staycations. It shines a light on the many attractions and open spaces we have to offer, along with great places to eat, drink and stay.**

**We would love to hear about any events taking place in South Cambridgeshire, and from independent retailers and services operating in the tourist sector. So do please apply to list your business or event free of charge.**



We would also encourage hospitality businesses in the region to promote special offers, tagging @VisitSouthCambs into social media posts so we can help push them to a wider audience. Use our suggested hashtags #SouthCambsOffers #SupportLocal or #WeLoveSouthCambs to make them easier to find.

Don't forget that South Cambs hospitality, tourism, leisure and independent retail businesses, as well as local event and market organisers, can take advantage of free listings on the site, which is seen by thousands of people all around the world.

Simply scan the QR code at the bottom of the page or use this URL <https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/business-listing/> to fill in our simple submission form.

Please contact [visit@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:visit@scambs.gov.uk) for any further information, or for help with wording your listing or social media posts.

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The *Stylish* unit comes in three colours (white, silver and blackwood) with curved corners, for a discreet and space-saving design. So Daikin harmonises aesthetics and performance to create an innovative product that suits any contemporary interior.

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### Reviews from our customers:

"Just wanted to say a big thank you to you and the install team. Currently enjoying a much cooler house – just at the right time. Also surprised at how energy efficient they seem to be!

"Absolutely loving the upgraded air conditioning, it's so quite and it has made a big difference to the humidity levels in the room so the dogs coats are drying better now as is my floor, lol!! Much more comfortable now, happy days !! 😊  
Many thanks to your team for their hard work, its very much appreciated especially as they were installing it in a big thunderstorm." - Kate

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# A limelight on Linton's businesses

There's a lot to shout about when it comes to Linton and its businesses. It's certainly not your ordinary village – believed to be the only one in England exclusively offering both a vineyard and a zoo!

To begin with, Linton's High Street is home to three village pubs; The Crown Inn, Waggon and Horses, and The Dog and Duck. Contributing to the village's vast array of delicious culinary options, these classic English taverns offer cosy surroundings, each with good food and drink, with alluring traditional façades facing the High Street.

Why not round off a visit at either inn by exploring the surrounding countryside using the Heritage Trail? Winding footpaths lead to scenic views around and across Rivey Hill and the Bartlow Hills Roman mounds.

Still thinking about food? The Linton Kitchen is the High Street's artisan hub of sweet treats and baked delights since April 2013. Brunch or lunch, coffee or afternoon tea, it's the complete village café for all to enjoy and open seven-days-a-week. For something hotter, the newly refurbished Bengal Lounge is dedicated to delivering authentic Bengal cuisine to your table.

Next comes a tour of Linton's independent galleries. Linton Art Gallery and Studio, Darryl Nantais Art Gallery and Gallery Above and Beyond are charming examples of fine art admirers, each offering high quality works covering many collections, styles and expressions.



| The Linton Kitchen



| Enjoy a beer at Wylde Sky

Linton's assortment of wonderful independent shops continues with Case Solved Wines. This merchant has over 25 years' experience, with a focus on certified organic and small-estate wines and offers quality customer service to create bespoke cases. Rare malts can also be found in-shop. The wide-ranging selection of bottles makes this store a must-visit for any wine aficionados.

Discover how wine gets from vine to table at Chilford Hall, one of England's oldest established vineyards and producer of award winning wines. Why not also hop on over to Wylde Sky Brewing? Located on the Grip Industrial Estate less than a half-mile walk from the High Street, this brewery and taproom offers award-winning beers, live music, and diverse food trucks from across the area.

Of course, these are a selection of the many attractions drawing people to Linton. Perhaps Linton Zoo is best known to most with its large collection of exotic animals that gets families and schools flocking there all year round. And finally, Farmers Fayre Market at Linton, held on the



| The Crown Inn at Linton

first Saturday of each month at the Village Hall, showcases local traders and their high-quality products, homemade goods, and talented craftsmanship.

## Future spotlight feature opportunities

If you'd like your village featured in a future spotlight feature, just let us know by emailing [openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk)

# Age Friendly Communities

We take an active approach to supporting our elderly residents.

We provide funding for Mobile Wardens who will visit at home, and provide a listening ear. They are also valuable support if you're returning from a stay in hospital and can offer reassurance to families who aren't able to visit regularly.

We also provide Community Chest Grant funding for community groups, charities and other not for profit organisations that work to support elderly residents. Here are some examples:

- The Papworth Team Ministry were awarded £600 towards their annual Rendezvous summer holiday club. The two-day event provided activities, talks, demonstrations and entertainment for senior citizens.
- Active with Parkinson's Cambs were awarded £2,000 to provide a new seated exercise class for those who have reached stage three of Parkinson's Disease.
- Girton Bowls Club were awarded £865 to purchase 12 bowls collectors to allow older members or those with mobility issues to continue playing bowls.



Other support services include:

- Managing 43 sheltered housing schemes in 30 villages throughout South Cambridgeshire.
- A short-term visiting support service providing confidential, emotional, financial, and practical support to promote independent living.
- A Community Lifeline Service which provides a pendant alarm in your home to arrange help when pressed.
- Physical activity support - local volunteer-led health walks to which all are welcome; strength and balance and chair-based exercise classes; new-age kurling and an exercise referral scheme for older adults with a diagnosed health condition.
- Community Hubs using funding provided by the Integrated Care System which are free to use and provide a warm welcome to all.

Cllr Bill Handley, our Lead Cabinet Member for Communities, said:

“ We are proud to be able to provide a range of services, funding and support to help our elderly residents not only live independently in their homes, but also within their community. They are the pillars of wisdom, experience, and resilience in our communities, so it is important to ensure they feel valued and connected. ”

For further information please contact

[duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk)

To find out more about groups, courses and activities please visit the How Are You South Cambridgeshire website at <https://haysouthcambs.co.uk/>

Volunteer car schemes can help people to make essential journeys, where they do not have access to other transport. The passenger pays a fixed rate per mile contribution towards the cost to the volunteer driver who uses their own car. Call Care Network's Community Navigators on 01954 212100 or email [southcambs.navigators@care-network.org.uk](mailto:southcambs.navigators@care-network.org.uk)

Free short term practical and emotional support is also available from Care Network's Help at Home and Wellbeing services. Visit [www.care-network.org.uk](http://www.care-network.org.uk) or call 01954 211919 to find out more.



# County lines: Spot the signs

County lines is the name given to drug dealing where organised criminal groups use phone lines to move and supply drugs, usually from cities into smaller towns and rural areas.

**Any city, town or village could be targeted, and cases have been noted in Cambridgeshire.**

“Line” usually refers to the telephone line/number/sim card on which customers can place their order to buy drugs.

## How are children involved?

The people with the most control and making the most money won't risk carrying drugs and meeting customers in case this raises suspicions and brings them to the attention of the police. Children are easy to intimidate or bribe, and less likely to be viewed suspiciously by authorities. They are also easy to replace in this “runner” role if they are found out by authorities.

## My child wouldn't do that!

The relationship is likely to begin as one that the child thinks will be positive. The child may be offered an easy, one-off task to earn the money they desire to fit in with friendship groups. They might be approached in person, via a friend or with innocuous-looking social media posts. If the child thinks this person is their friend and offering them an easy way to earn money then they may not consider it serious enough to overtly tell their grown-up about until they are already in debt and feel trapped.

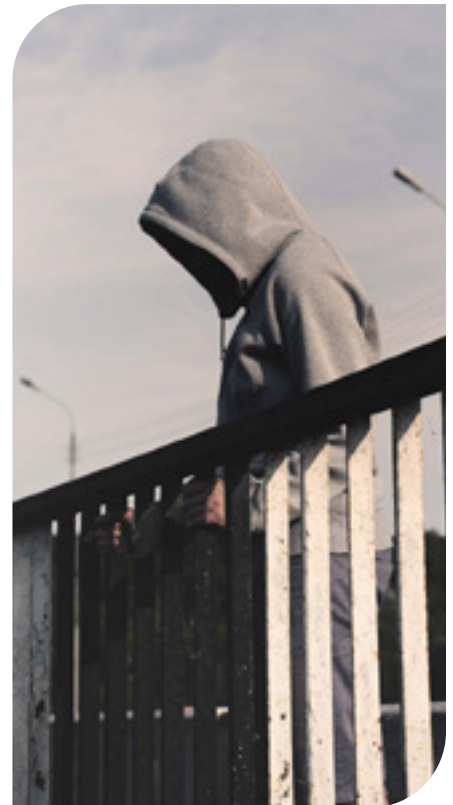


There are factors such as time spent in the social care system, exclusion from school or placement in alternative education provision, living in poverty, special educational needs and disabilities that can leave some children more vulnerable to being exploited but all children are vulnerable.

## So how can I tell?

Signs can include:

- having more than one mobile phone, or being unusually anxious about letting it out of their or when you try to look at it.
- unexplained money, clothes or gifts.
- missing school or college, or going missing from home.
- uncharacteristic changes in behaviour.
- using new vocabulary such as “Going country”, “OT”, “Trapping”.



Iverson are a support organisation for parents and guardians of exploited young people and have a wealth of advice on their website.

For more information visit: <https://ivisontrust.org.uk/for-parents/parents-voices/>

For more information regarding county lines visit [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk) and search for 'County lines' or email [communitysafety@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@scambs.gov.uk)

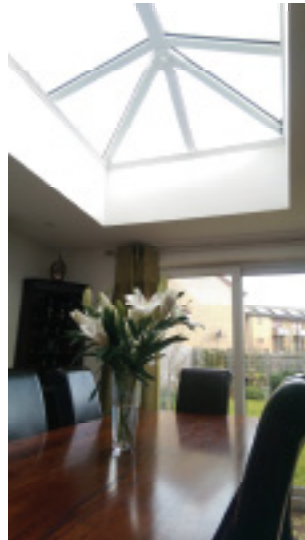
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# Help nature in your garden this spring

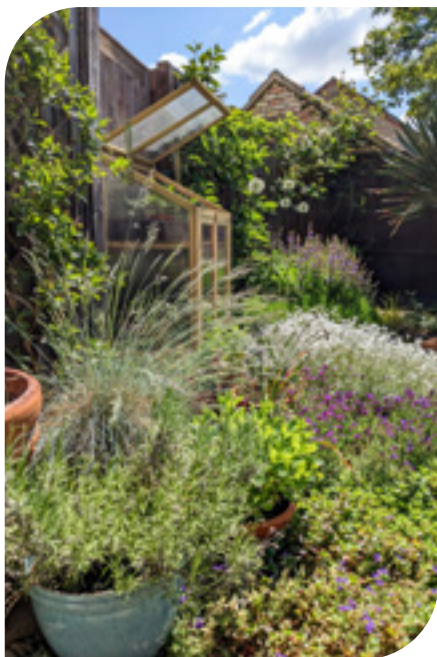
Spring is the time of year when nature comes to life, so there is plenty you can do to help it flourish in your garden and outdoor spaces.

## Soil

Ahead of the spring planting season, you might like to give your soil a helping hand.

If you are buying compost, consider going peat-free. Peat is dug out of wild wetlands and bogs, which are rare and important ecosystems. Digging peat out also releases carbon into the atmosphere, accelerating climate change.

Free soil conditioner is available from the Thalia Waste Management Plant on the A10 just north of Waterbeach. This is produced by the In-Vessel Composting process which rapidly composts garden and food waste from across Cambridgeshire, producing soil conditioner in a matter of weeks. It is free to collect, but you'll need a shovel and bags.



## Lawns and flowers

As plants start to grow in spring it can be tempting to start weeding and get the lawn mower out. However, letting grass grow long is great for wildlife. Areas of long grass encourage different plants to grow which improves the variety of food and habitat for insects. This in turn benefits birds and mammals that feed on them.

You can cut some paths and leave the rest of the mowing until July or August, after plants have flowered.

You can also enhance your garden for pollinators like bees and butterflies by planting nectar rich plants. The Wildlife Trust has advice for choosing plants on their website at [www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/best-plants-bees-and-pollinators](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/best-plants-bees-and-pollinators)

Letting grass grow long is great for wildlife.

## Pests and weeds

If you need to remove weeds, then hand-weeding can be better for wildlife than using sprays, which can contain chemicals harmful to animals and your soil.

Sprays that remove garden pests often also harm the creatures that eat these pests, so consider going chemical-free. Other methods like diluted household detergent or soapy water can remove aphids and scale insects, while leaving their helpful predators like ladybirds and lacewings unharmed.

## Birds

Spring is an important season for garden birds, as they look for nesting places to raise their chicks. There is still time to put up a bird box in early spring, to help your garden birds find a home.

If you have a bird feeder or table, birds like high-protein food in spring to support them through the breeding season and to replenish calories used during migration. Sunflower seeds or mealworms are ideal.



# Take action on energy bills

With Ofgem's energy cost cap rising in January, many households are experiencing another increase in energy bills.

Some 'quick wins' to help reduce the amount of energy you use include draught proofing doors, switching to efficient LED light bulbs, using radiator reflectors, and adding more insulation to your loft.

Support is also available through Action on Energy, a partnership between councils, which helps households access advice and free home energy efficiency improvements. Available measures include insulation, solar panels and heat pumps.

You might be eligible for grant funded home improvements if:

- you are an owner-occupier or private renter.
- you have an annual household income of less than £34,500.
- you are in receipt of a means-tested benefit.
- your property has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D, E, F or G.
- your property is off mains gas (is heated by oil, LPG, electric heaters etc).
- you have received a letter from Action on Energy indicating your property is eligible.

Find out more about the funding schemes, eligibility requirements and how to apply at [www.actiononenergycambs.org](http://www.actiononenergycambs.org)



## Climate Conference

In November, we held our first Climate Conference which coincided with the UN Climate Change Conference COP28.

Our conference focused on local action to combat the climate and ecological emergencies, with the objective of celebrating climate action in South Cambridgeshire, sharing knowledge and creating connections between local groups.

The conference was attended by approximately 70 people including local climate groups, councillors, and the public. A range of speakers covered topics including renewable energy for villages, community electric vehicle chargers, and local nature recovery.

Cllr Brian Milnes, our Lead Cabinet Member for Environment, said:

“ We are proud of our continuous efforts to address the climate emergency. However, achieving this goal requires a collaborative effort from us all. It was a privilege to meet like-minded people at this event and share ideas on how we can become Net Zero. ”



The conference took place at Cottenham Village Hall, which recently received one of our Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) Grants to install solar panels. Over £500,000 has now been given to a range of community projects which support local climate change initiatives. You can find out more about our ZCC Grants and watch our video which commemorates this milestone at [www.scambs.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant)

Building on this success, we will hold another conference this year, which will align with the next COP taking place from 11 to 24 November.





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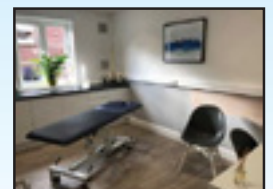
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# Save on your business energy prices

Spring may be here, but rising energy prices are still an issue for South Cambridgeshire businesses as well as residents.

There are many steps businesses can take to manage their energy consumption and keep costs down, including:

-  lowering the thermostat by as little as one degree.
-  checking heating and hot water schedules.
-  installing a smart meter.
-  printing less which reduces the amount of paper, toner and electricity being used.
-  checking insulation for any gaps or thin patches.
-  swapping to energy saving LED light bulbs.
-  switching appliances off rather than leaving them on standby.

Compare different energy tariffs, including green tariffs. This is where some, or even all, of the electricity you buy is 'matched' by a business purchase of renewable energy sources that your supplier makes on your behalf. Renewable energy comes from a variety of sources, including wind farms, hydroelectric power stations and solar farms. We have a thermal imaging camera available for businesses to borrow



free of charge to help understand where they're losing heat. Thermal imaging cameras are visual tools that show heat loss from buildings, typically through floors, walls, beneath doorways and between windows. If you would like to borrow one for your business premises, email [businesskeyprojects@scams.gov.uk](mailto:businesskeyprojects@scams.gov.uk)

Advice and support is also available to help businesses understand how to become greener to protect the planet while reducing operating costs, increasing competitive advantage and improving customer satisfaction by demonstrating commitment to their values.

The Green Business Impact Programme is an opportunity for local businesses to receive expert advice on carbon reduction, supporting them to create a free Net Zero roadmap to instil sustainability and energy efficiency into their business decisions.

A Net Zero roadmap is a five-year plan detailing how you can cut carbon emissions in your business, including looking up and down your supply chain.

The programme is open to small and medium-sized enterprises, including limited companies and sole traders, with commercial premises in the district. It supports local businesses in their efforts to embed sustainability into day-to-day business and longer-term decision making.

This is delivered on our behalf by local environmental charities Allia and PECT and is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Find out more at <https://futurebusinesscentre.co.uk/programmes/green-business-programme>



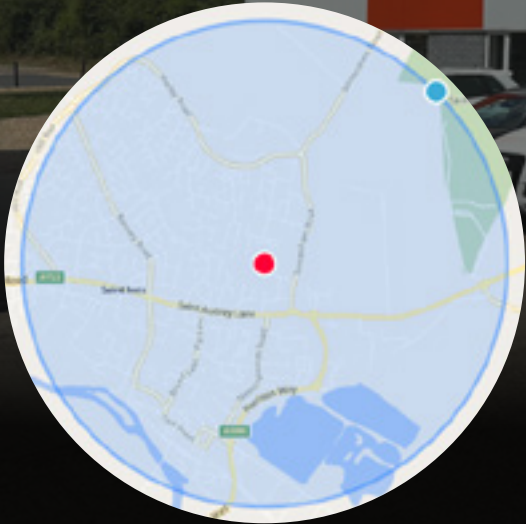
More advice for businesses on how to save energy and money is available at [www.scams.gov.uk/business/cost-of-doing-business-support](http://www.scams.gov.uk/business/cost-of-doing-business-support)



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# A Capybara Experience at Shepreth Wildlife Park

We've teamed-up with Shepreth Wildlife Park to offer one person the chance to win a Capybara Experience for them and two others – worth £250.

Immerse yourself in the enchanting world of capybaras with this exclusive experience, tailored for those aged 16 and above. This 30-minute encounter not only grants you access to the wildlife park but also offers a rare chance to interact with these fascinating creatures.

As you enter their habitat, be prepared for heart-warming moments. The capybaras, known for their gentle nature, may approach you with curiosity. Experience the joy of feeding them bamboo, a delightful exchange that creates a connection between you and these charming animals.

But the adventure doesn't stop there – the capybaras often display a friendly demeanour, allowing you the privilege of gently stroking them. It's a unique opportunity to appreciate the beauty of these creatures up close and personal. Find out more about the Capybara Experience at <https://sheprethwildlifepark.co.uk/product/capybara-experience>

Don't miss the chance to enter this competition and make memories that will last a lifetime!



## To enter

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

**Our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Team's Youth Engagement Service won prestigious awards at which recent event?**

- a) The Inspire Future Generations Awards
- b) The Future Planning Awards
- c) The Awards for an Inspiring Future

You can enter the competition online.

➡ [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)

Click 'Apply' and then 'Reader's competition'.



## Don't have Internet access?

You can enter by post. Send your name, address and telephone number, along with your answer to the question, to:

✍ South Cambs Magazine Competition,  
South Cambridgeshire District Council,  
Cambourne Business Park,  
Cambourne, CB23 6EA

**Closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday 5 April 2024.**

Terms and conditions are available at [www.scambs.gov.uk/t-c](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/t-c) or can be requested by calling us. The winner will be notified in early April and announced in the summer 2024 issue of South Cambs Magazine.

## Winner's spotlight

The winner of our previous competition was David Holland from Northstowe. David won tickets to two incredible shows at the Cambridge Corn Exchange worth hundreds of pounds; Bizet's Carmen, featuring the Ukrainian Opera & Ballet Theatre Kyiv and Professor Brian Cox: HORIZONS. David said:

"I'm an amateur trombonist and in a recent concert I played the Toreador Song from Carmen, so it'll be very special to hear that as part of the whole opera. And I've seen Brian Cox many times on TV so I'm certainly looking forward to seeing his live show. What a privilege!"





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The Wedding Singer, September 2023 (Photo by Peter Buncombe Photography)

**experience the very best from your local theatre!**

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By Alan Ayckbourn  
When Gnomes turn into projectiles, the innocent residents at Bluebell Hill Development take matters into their own hands, but their enthusiasm quickly escalates.  
**TUE 05 - SAT 09 MARCH AT 7.45PM**  
**SAT 09 MARCH AT 2.30PM**

### SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club  
By Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler  
Sweeney Todd returns to London with only one thing on his mind: revenge. A Barber's chair and a razor blade: only horror can ensue...  
**WED 13 - SAT 23 MARCH AT 7.45PM**  
**MATINEES AT 2.30PM**

### A FEW GOOD MEN

Corkscrew Theatre Company  
By Aaron Sorkin  
Can you handle the truth? Aaron Sorkin's blistering drama challenges us with this iconic question as two Marines go on trial for murder.  
**TUE 26 - SAT 30 MARCH AT 7.45PM**  
**SAT 30 MARCH AT 2.30PM**

### BUSMAN'S HONEYMOON

BAWDS  
By Dorothy L Sayers and Muriel St. Clare Byrne  
This Dorothy L Sayers classic finds the detective Lord Peter Wimsey (and crime writer Harriet Vane) on honeymoon when a body is discovered in their cellar...  
**TUE 09 - SAT 13 APRIL AT 7.45PM**  
**SAT 13 APRIL AT 2.30PM**

### MADE IN DAGENHAM

Pied Pipers  
By Richard Bean, David Arnold and Richard Thomas  
An uplifting musical comedy about friendship, love and the importance of fighting for what's right.  
**TUE 23 - SAT 27 APRIL AT 7.45PM**  
**SAT 27 APRIL AT 2.30PM**

### THE PRODUCERS

Festival Players  
By Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan  
Winner of a record-breaking 12 Tony Awards, **The Producers** is Mel Brooks' story of Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom: two theatrical producers who scheme to get rich quick by putting on the worst musical ever written.  
**THU 30 MAY - SAT 08 JUNE AT 7.45PM**  
**SAT 01 & 08 JUNE AT 2.30PM**





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