



Newsletter

June 2021

Edition Four

Welcome: to the fourth e-newsletter from Fascinating Fens. If you love the fens as much as we do, please continue to receive this free quarterly newsletter. It will be full of fen facts, fen festivals, places to visit, events and promotions. If quarterly is not enough for your fen updates, then follow us on Twitter, Facebook or our blog www.fascinatingfens.com. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter by writing an article or being an editor, please get in touch. The newsletter will be published in June, September, December and March, all articles must come to us by the end of the previous month. If you would like to sponsor this newsletter or other Fascinating Fens projects, then please see the section about sponsorship in this newsletter. Above all, we would love it if people could get involved, as this newsletter is for you.

In this newsletter....

- Celebrate the Fens Day 2021
- Open days
- Guided Walks
- Other activities
- Fen Flag
- Fen Folk Fridays: updates
- Volunteering and sponsorship opportunities

An Introduction to Fascinating Fens:

Fascinating Fens believes in engaging communities to promote and explore the fens through heritage, creativity, nature, wellbeing and accessibility. Fascinating Fens has continued to gain momentum with projects such as "Celebrate the Fens day", "Fen 2021 calendar", "Fen Folks Fridays", colouring competitions/challenges, story reading events, Fascinating Fens Tails, and the giant community lockdown eel. I voluntarily complete these projects and enjoy doing them. Please continue to get involved and I love seeing your photos on social media.



Happy

Celebrate the Fens day:

19th June 2021

**Celebrate the Fens
Weekend 18th -20th June**

#CelebrateTheFens

How will you Celebrate??

Here are some ideas...



Wisbech Castle Gardens Open Day

Visit Wisbech Castle Garden for a great Open day. "Wisbech Town Council" are putting on this event for the community. Explore the garden, exhibitions, the vaults and the house, to find more about its secrets. Open 10am to 4pm 19th June.

Babylon Gallery Ely: Edge of the Fens Exhibition

All weekend. Featuring paintings on canvas, wood, and paper, felted textile works and drawings on fabric, Edge of the Fens offers a variety of perspectives on the unique and wonderful landscape of the local area.



Crowland Abbey Open Day:

Join Crowland Abbey's Open day featuring: Bell ringing demonstrations, inside & outside guided tours, churchyard guided tours, tower tours, Crowland Quest (adult and children's versions), children's trails (Inside & Outside), display of historical documents, and refreshments. Crowland Buffalo group will be showing photos/items from digging up the vehicle. 19th June 10am -4pm.



Thorney "Island" guided Fen Edge Trail walking tour:

Join Thorney Heritage Museum and Cambs Geological Society for a guided walk on the Fen Edge Trail around the Isle of Thorney, taking in cultural history, fenland landscape, geology and wildlife. 2pm -4pm, Sunday 20th June. Please book by emailing: info@cambsgeology.org

Fen Speak: Fen Poetry and words.

Join in by sending poems, stories and writings, to Fen Speak. They will be sharing all entries on day. Looking forward to hearing them.



Hereward Charity Challenge (The Wake project):

19th June, Nigel Amos is Abbot Tuold who takes back the gold and silver. Tuold tours Ramsey from 10- 11am before at Pondersbridge from 12 Noon to 1pm and arriving back at Peterborough Cathedral at 4pm and the final celebrations outside the cathedral of the Hereward Rising!



The Fens Calendar competition 2022:

Calling fen folk who love taking photos. Join in with our free fen calendar competition which launches on Celebrate the fens day





Kings Lynn guided River walk and Shakespeare Guildhall:

Saturday 19th June, 11am - 2pm. A delightful tour combining a visit to St George's Guildhall – Britain's Largest Medieval Guildhall & Oldest Working Theatre – with a tour of the town from both banks of the River Great Ouse. Must be pre-booked by contacting Ivor@kingslynntownguides.co.uk

Chatteris Little Acre Pocket Park Nature guided walking tour:

Saturday 19th June, 10am - 4pm. A lovely nature walking tour exploring Chatteris Little Acre. Free walking nature tours. Please pre-book: by contacting Ian Mason by email chatterismuseum@tiscali.co.uk or phone 07979 334833



The Great Fen Nature Guided Walk:

Saturday 19th June, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Join a wonderful guided walking nature tour around beautiful Woodwalton Fen Nature Reserve, one of the oldest reserves in England. Please book in advance, see www.wildbcn.org

Wicken Fen:

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th: Join in with Dragonfly Safaris (11.30am and 2pm) and guided bird watching (10am) tours at Wicken Fen. Please book in advance: please call the visitor centre on 01353 720274

The Farmland Museum at Denny Abbey:

Family Fun and explore their fen exhibits: www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk



Cambridgeshire Libraries:

Social media #Fenathon of posts, library exhibitions and Fen book carousel.

Ely Museum:

19th and 20th June 10-4: interactive, family-friendly opportunity to find out more about the Fenland landscape and creatively respond to it.

Other things to do in the Fens for Celebrate the fens day:

Virtual activities on our website, songs, virtual tours (Wisbech tunnels and Wisbech Art Space virtual gallery), self-guided walking tours, you tube videos relating to the fens from followers and eco camp at Mad Hatters.

Volunteer with Fascinating Fens....

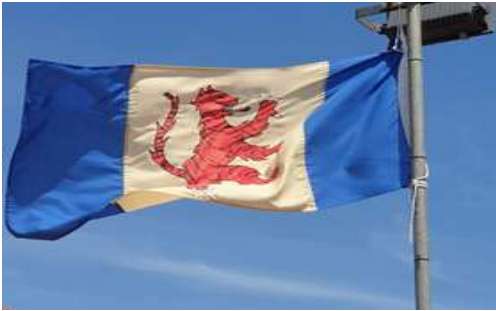
If you love the fens and like the type of thing Fascinating Fens is trying to achieve, why not volunteer with us to promote and explore the fens? You can spend as much or as little time as you wish, helping with our projects. Please get touch.

Huge Thank you:

A huge thank you to everyone who has put on an event, activity or has got involved in some way in the background. Also a great big thankyou to everyone getting involved over the weekend, joining in or using the hashtag #CelebrateTheFens. It is all of you who have this community celebrate possible.

Fenland Flag:

Perhaps you have seen the Fenland flag on your travels, featuring the Fen Tiger that is the symbol of the area. Why not display one yourself on Celebrate the Fens Day? You can get a free sticker (front or back-adhesive) by contacting the Fenland Flag page on Facebook. A large range of clothing, badges, patches, fridge magnets and other merchandise is available from the FOTF Merchandise page, also on Facebook. You can buy a flag, large or small, from Flying Colours Flagmakers in Knaresborough or from Mr Flag or Red Dragon Flagmakers, both in Swansea. Finally, you can get a free map of the Fens by sending an email to james.bowman71@btinternet.com



“The Fens” Shop

Visit our Fascinating Fens shop online. Unique fen gifts and souvenirs, the items change regularly. All items relate to the fens in some way. A proportion of each item sold goes to Fascinating Fens projects. If you are a fen artist, photographer, crafter, then get in touch if you would like to sell via our website or have a link to your fen gifts.

Sponsor Fascinating Fens....

If you own a business/company in the fens why not sponsor one of our projects. Your sponsorship would help our current projects continue and help to develop further new projects. In return you will receive advertisements in our newsletter, website and social media. Please get in touch for more details

Other Upcoming Fen Events:

Ely Folk Festival is returning with a slightly smaller event, mainly outdoors. 9th -11th July. There will still be excellent music to get your feet tapping.



Healthy Fenland:

An enormous thank you to “Healthy Fenland” and their team who have awarded Fascinating Fens with a grant for this year to help the Fen Folks Fridays group to officially start. So, if you if you want to help this group by volunteering, joining in or being a speaker about a fen topic that inspires you, please get touch or come along to a meeting.

Fen Folks Fridays: Do you love the fens? If so, join our free friendly monthly zoom "Fen Folks Fridays" to meet others who share your interest. Each meeting will include a speaker about topics relating to the fens. If you are new to zoom, please feel free to email me prior to the event as I'm happy to practice a little with you first online. It will also include updates of forthcoming events and activities in the fens. Please book in advance via our website.



Upcoming Fen Folks Friday dates for your diary:

June 18th: Francis Pryor helps us to launch Celebrate the Fens Weekend.

July: A real face to face meet up, being organised by Fen Coddwompler Paul Magan. Likely to a pub garden in the fens. It will seem funny meeting up in person, after only seeing each other on the screen. Let us know if you want to join us. Date and venue to be confirmed.

August 20th: Traditional Healing in the Fens by Julie Wakefield.

Thank you

for reading this newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed it. Look out for the September edition (our newsletter's first anniversary!). Feel free to print this newsletter for you customers/clients/visitors or email to friends. Get in touch if you have any ideas for this newsletter, photos, articles (approx. 250 words) or forthcoming events.