

John
Huntingdon's
Charity

Winter 2022

News



Welcome

2022 has presented many people with difficult challenges and there seems little prospect of things calming next year. Our Advice service has been especially busy, and you can read more about their work in Sarva's piece overleaf.

If you need direct advice, particularly about rising heating costs, we will be responding to calls and emails right up to 1pm on Friday 23rd December 2022 and will reopen at 9am on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Whatever the concern, it's always better to get in touch sooner than later and we'll do our absolute best to assist, discretely and in confidence. A problem shared really is a problem halved especially when finding a way feels impossible. Contact us on 01223 492492 or office@johnhuntingdon.co.uk. We always aim to do our best to help.



JHC never loses sight of the support it gets from local people and organisations too. For example, Trudy and I recently represented the charity at Saffron Walden Golf Club where members kindly presented us with a £8500 donation to our Foodbank. Special thanks to Claire Richardson (a Sawston resident) its Ladies' Captain, for picking us as her nominated charity for the year. You can read more about our local supporters here and on johnhuntingdon.org.uk.

I also enjoyed the Friday Singers' Christmas concert in Sawston's Marven Centre recently, when the group kindly gave me an opportunity to share details about JHC and our Foodbank. After the concert the audience donated to a collection for the Foodbank which came to £673.50.

With growing demand for this service, their fantastic contribution will enable us to help even more people. I'd like to thank Valerie Catton and all of the Friday Singers, as well as the audience for their collective kindness and support.

I hope Christmas brings some respite from the gloom and a chance to catch up with family and friends. This can make a world of difference, though now more than ever it's also worth checking any vulnerable neighbours are ok too.

Jill Hayden, Charity Manager



FWD-IP Community Stadium - a new era for Cambridge City FC and Sawston

We are delighted that a landmark stage has been reached in Cambridge City's move to its new stadium in Sawston.

Work around the FWD-IP Community Stadium is making good progress with the main pitch, a key aspect of the site, being taken over recently by the club from developer AT Bone. City will now maintain it whilst the rest of the development is completed.

In addition, the standing terraces - including the roof, crush barrier and guttering - and the base course of tarmac throughout the site have been added. Stadium Solutions hopes to complete the main stand's steel frame, including cold rolled purlins, plus cladding to create a watertight structure over the next month.

Elsewhere, steady progress continues with the 3G pitch soon to be in use. A number of City's directors recently received specialist training about the facility's equipment and technical experts are ensuring the pitch meets FIFA grading for its opening. All of City's teams are set to use it for training including boys' and girls' team matches on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The site was recently open to the public for the planting of 800 saplings, granted to the Cambridge City Supporters' Trust as part of the Queen's Jubilee Canopy project. With nearly 200 people in attendance, the Trust was overwhelmed with support from Sawston's community.

"As each stage of work is completed, it marks another step closer to us moving into the FWD-IP Community Stadium, said City chairman Kevin Satchell. "Cataloguing them may seem quite detailed against the project's 'bigger picture,' but they are definitely significant. With the main pitch being handed over to the club, and the possibility of being able to use the 3G pitch on our horizon, it is exciting to see our new home develop step by step.

"John Huntingdon's Charity is Cambridge City FC's Charity of the Year and we are close to raising £1000 so far this season as well as collecting food donations for the charity's Foodbank at home games. The generosity of fans bringing food each game is great to see given times are so tough for everyone. The Trust will continue this into the next season once it's moved to Sawston. And between now and then we will continue to build our partnership with the charity."

JHC Manager, Jill Hayden, responded; "We are thrilled that Cambridge City FC has chosen us as its charity partner. It's important to raise awareness of what we do in our community and feel that CCFC, with its new home in Sawston, is an ideal partner to help achieve this."

Kevin Satchell added; "Cambridge City takes immense pride in its charity and community work. Recently we helped Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire MIND to raise mental health awareness and, over the last two seasons, the Cambridge City Foodbank, acting as a collection point for donations. We have always been a club that puts its community first and are pleased to continue this tradition with JHC.

Keep up to date with Cambridge City FC on www.cambridgecityfc.com and follow us on social media.

Alice Dewey,
General Manager Cambridge City FC



Continuing John Huntingdon's legacy



John Huntingdon was a 16th century local landowner when the village had only 60 households. Witnessing severe poverty locally, he and his wife Joyce formed a vision to help those in need. In 1554, he left a legacy that would benefit future generations of Sawston residents.

Fast-forward to the current cost of living crisis which is affecting everyone, especially those on low incomes. JHC is still championing that legacy by helping those for whom its economic, social and emotional impact is especially hard. Our experienced team provides holistic advice and wants to encourage Sawston residents experiencing difficulty to get in touch.

We are driven to improve people's quality of life and make a real difference to those we support. It's not just about the number of people, but also how our overall service impacts positively on the wider Sawston community that matters.



Advice and support

This year we have seen a record high of over 500 local people in need coming through our doors, with spiralling fuel costs pushing many more into debt.

Dealing with this is hard on your own; it's human nature to hope such problems will disappear if you ignore them long enough. And it's a difficult subject to talk to someone else about.

But the longer we ignore debts the worse the situation becomes so it's vital to seek early assistance.

JHC also works tirelessly in partnership with other organisations to help people with the cost of living crisis. We're proud to have secured more than £21,000 for families from StayWell grants and a further £20,000 via the Cambridge Local Assistance Scheme this year. And this work continues.

Specialist debt advice

The charity recognises the value of providing specialist debt-related support in addition to our own Advice service.

Whenever useful, we signpost clients to our close partners Citizens Advice Cambridge whose debt specialist is available one day a week to provide telephone or in-person appointments at our Sawston office.

By June 2022, thirty clients had received in-depth debt advice covering almost 400 different housing, benefits and relationship issues as well as legal and utility concerns.

We would like to encourage all local residents to seek initial debt support through JHC. If you are struggling with food and energy costs we have various grants available and can signpost further support.

Partners

As 2022 comes to a close we'd like to thank all the local organisations that support us in delivering our services. Our partnerships with Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambs District Council, Sawston's schools and churches, Sawston Co-op, Centre 33, Cogwheel Counselling, Citizens Advice, Social Navigators, Cambridge Reuse, Relate Cambridge, and Shelford & Stapleford Youth Initiative are invaluable.

The charity's vision, which began in the 16th Century, is as important now, and it's vital we secure it for future generations. We would like to inspire new philanthropists keen to create resources for future generations.

Sarva Babla,
Housing Support Worker &
Support Service Co-ordinator

We are here for you!

Visit www.johnhuntingdon.org.uk or join us on facebook.



Help & Advice



Housing



Grants

High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire visits JHC

As a resident of Sawston, I wanted to visit JHC to discover how it began and how the team works to benefit the local community. I was also keen to talk about my role as High Sheriff, explain how the office originated and how it has evolved. It is a royal appointment with its primary function being the maintenance of law and order, and there is evidence that it began in the 700s. The power of the High Sheriff rose and fell through the ages and is now purely ceremonial. I support the judiciary, the police and voluntary services.

My objectives also included exploring ways we could work together to further goals for my shrieval year of promoting diversity and inclusion, as well as public safety. The meeting was extremely informative - it was interesting to hear how old JHC is, although not as old as the office of High Sheriff!

The charity's housing programme is fantastic and I was also impressed with its support and advice service. After the meeting JHC put me in touch with Centre 33 which supports young people aged 18-25. It helps prevent feelings of exclusion and isolation and other mental health issues, as well as providing practical assistance with housing, employment and benefits.

I hope to work more closely with JHC in the future, both during my year as High Sheriff and beyond.

Jennifer Crompton,
High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire



South Cambridgeshire District Council

The council will be holding a fortnightly Advice Surgery Service every first and third Thursday monthly. This is to support residents with financial, rent, council tax or housing advice, and there will be a member of staff from each relevant department to meet. South Cambridgeshire's Welfare and Money Maximisation Officer will also be providing guidance on benefits, grants, and budgeting.

Scheduled dates are December 15th 2022, January 5th & 19th, February 2nd & 16th, March 2nd & 16th 2023. Enquiries for appointments can be made by email to welfare.officer@scambs.gov.uk



JHC foodbank

During 2022 we gave out around 1,000 food bags - for comparison, pre-pandemic our average distribution was 450. We're also on target to provide 180 Christmas hampers locally as this growing demand means our team of Foodbank volunteers is busier than ever. These unsung heroes aid us tirelessly by collecting from local donation points and packing and delivering food bags around the community.

We also couldn't keep up without the sustained goodwill of local residents and organisations who donate items. Whilst too many to list here, we are very appreciative of their support which we never take for granted.



Stay in touch

To keep up with what's happening at JHC please visit www.johnhuntingdon.org.uk or join us on Facebook. If you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter, please ask them to contact us.

JHC opening hours



This year we are open from
9am – 2pm on Mondays
9am – 4pm Tuesday – Thursday
9am – 1pm on Fridays

Here when you need us

John Huntingdon Centre

189 High Street, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3HJ Tel: 01223 492492 Email: office@johnhuntingdon.org.uk

We are an incorporated charity which means that we have both a registered charity number 1118574 and a company registration number 06045630.
We are a company limited by guarantee registered in England.