

COTTENHAM ONLY MILDLY AFFECTED BY MILLENNIUM BUG!

Are we in Cottenham planning to go quietly into the year 2000? Or are we pedantic and waiting for the real new millennium celebrations on Jan 1 2001? As far as we can see, plans for the end of this year in Cottenham are low-key.

Some time ago the parish council balloted village opinion to see if there was support for it to spend money to mark the dawn of the year 2000. Of the 1900 circulars sent out, 160 were returned. Of these, there was no conclusive support for a major event. Therefore, the parish council plans to mark the millennium by giving all children of primary school age or younger a commemorative mug made by the pottery at Wilburton. Other plans for the New Year celebrations include circling the village green with

Christmas lights and placing a number of commemorative seats on the village green.

These plans are worthy and credit is due to the organisers. However, there are no plans, that we are aware of, to bring the village together to mark an event that happens only once every thousand years.

Cottenham is a remarkably active village. Every year the calendar is punctuated with events from the fun run (which is proceeding as this article is being written), to the feast parade and the spectacular fireworks display, which is hosted by the primary school every 5th of November. These events are always well organised and well supported by the people of the village. Funfairs and circuses are regular visitors to the village green. There is always something going on.

It seems strange then that, when the rest of the world parties, we in Cottenham will be watching others on the television rather than doing something ourselves.

But what could we do? The ballot held by the parish council shows that there is no mandate for them to spend significant money on a celebration. Clearly, if anything is to happen then it will need to be self funding. However, many such events already exist in the village and there is a wealth of organisational talent to be drawn upon.

What form could the celebration take? An obvious possibility would be to have a firework display in the early evening of Dec 31 to get the village together. Other events, such as a sponsored 'walk in the frost' could be organised for 1 January 2000. Indoor

continued on page 3

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VILLAGE DIARY

MAY

- 19th Cottenham Gardeners Club. Garden visit - Rock Farm Littleport
28th Cottenham Gardeners Club. The dry garden - a talk by N. Villis.
Cottenham Village College 7:45pm
29th Cottenham Salvation Army. Jumble sale And coffee morning
10:00am to 11:30am
31st The Great Mill - Aldreth Road, Haddenham. Open day 2:00pm to 6:00pm

JUNE

- 1st Cambridge Osteoporosis Support Group. A talk by Valerie Zarno -
Aromatherapist. Dry Drayton Village Hall 2:00pm to 4:00pm
12th All Saints' Church Fete
13th Wildlife Trust. Guided walk around Shepreth L-Moor. 2:30pm at the
reserve entrance on the Meldreth/ Shepreth Road
13th The Great Mill - Aldreth Road, Haddenham. Open day 2:00pm to 6:00pm
19th Cottenham Salvation Army. Jumble Sale And Coffee Morning
10:00am to 11:30am
20th British Heart Foundation. Family Fun Day - Coton Orchard
from 10:00am
21st Cottenham Wine and Beer Circle. Pub night - trip to local pub to be
arranged by the members
22nd Cottenham Gardeners Club. Garden Visit - Fitzwilliam College
25th Bus pass refunds at Stevens Close Community Room - 4:00pm to 6:00pm

JULY

- 3rd Craft Day at Ladybirds Pre-School 10:00am to 1:00pm ages 4-10 years
4th Cottenham Gardening Club. Members' Garden Party
4th The Great Mill - Aldreth Road, Haddenham. Open day 2:00pm to 6:00pm
10th Cottenham Salvation Army. Mini-Market 10:00am to 12:00 noon
10th Cottenham Wine and Beer Circle. Barbecue at 4 New Town, Cottenham.
24th Cottenham Salvation Army. Jumble Sale And Coffee Morning
10:00am to 11:30am
25th Cottenham Gardening Club. Garden Visit - Cottenham

SMALL ADS

Why not advertise in the Newsletter!

Items for sale, announcement
of family events.....

5p per word, with all pro-
ceeds going to charity.

THEATRE OUTINGS TO NORWICH IN THE AUTUMN.

Northern Ballet Theatre - 'Carmen',
9th October, leaving 11am. Tickets
£22.15p including coach.

'Annie' with Leslie Joseph & Kevin
Colson. October 23rd, leaving
11am. Over 60s and under 16s
£12.75p, others £23.75p including
coach.

Details from Henry Fleck 01954 -
250 635



DIARY NOTES

Cottenham Toy Library -

Thursdays 2.30 - 4.00 - May 20th; June 3rd & 17th; July 1st & 15th.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS - ALTERATIONS FOR WHITSUN HOLIDAY.

Friday, 4th June - collection on Saturday 5th June

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DIARY DATES -
THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ENTRIES IN THIS SECTION -
CHARITY AND CHURCH EVENTS ESPECIALLY WELCOME.



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Ladybirds pre-school is situated off Lambs Lane, next to the Primary School, behind the Sports and Social Club.

Please contact us for more details, or drop in to see our purpose-built facilities.

Supervisor: Rosemary Miller BA(Hons)
Registered Charity

OFSTED APPROVED

Chairperson: Jenny Bowles
Member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance

TOY STORY

Kids bored with their toys from Christmas? The Ferbie been abandoned at the back of the cupboard? Don't feel like splashing out on yet more but want to keep them happy just the same?

There is an alternative to an expensive trip to the toy shop

What is it?

It's the Cottenham Toy Library!

It works like this. You join the Toy Library for just £1 and you and your child get to choose from a great selection of games and toys at our meetings held in the Salvation Army Barn twice a month. Each item is borrowed for between 30p and £1 per session. While they're choosing a toy or playing with the other children you can have a sit down, a cup of coffee and a chat with the mums, dads and carers.

Toy Library is run by volunteer mums and dads just like you, who know the value of play and having different toys to stimulate your child. To work properly Toy Library needs new members all the time, to borrow the toys and help with fundraising to make sure we have sufficient funds to replace old and damaged toys and to buy new ones.

The enthusiastic committee keep it all running smoothly throughout the year and organises numerous events to raise extra money. We held a very successful Nearly New Sale in

March.

Last July, we had a Teddy Bears' Picnic and picnickers with Teddies in tow enjoyed a ball-pool, and ice-creams in the sunshine. The children tried out many of the Toy Library's larger outdoor toys such as the trampoline, slide, and Playhouse. We'll be putting up posters later in the year advertising the next Picnic.

In June and November, we had cake stalls to sell homemade cakes and buns to shoppers in the village and raise some funds for the Toy Library. If you can pledge a cake for this year's cake stall, get in touch.

In October, we marked PlayMatters Week with a fun afternoon where children and parents enjoyed music and storytelling sessions. Also in October, we again took part in Cottenham's Feast Parade. You may have seen our decorated trailer complete with Jack-in-a-box and Toy Library toys. We gave out more than 100 leaflets telling people about Toy Library.

There were lots of other events throughout the year as well as the regular sessions, including a Christmas Fun Morning, all of which helped to boost funds so we could buy more new toys, such as dolls buggies, toddler kitchen, Duplo Farm, electric train set, trampoline, slide, even a junior microscope and some educational electronic toys. We've just taken delivery of a xylophone; bought

with a grant from the Cottenham British Schools Trust.

There's plenty of choice for you and the kids! Why not give Toy Library a try - it's a much nicer and far less expensive way to keep the children happy than another trip to the toy shop!

For more information call Carol Grange on Cottenham 251528 or come and see us on the first and third Thursdays of the month between 2:30pm and 4:30 pm (4:00pm during winter).

David and Tricia Bradley

continued from front page

activities would also need to be considered given the time of the year. There are many possibilities and we are confident that there is a rich source of ideas out there among the readers of this newsletter.

We invite you to contact us with your suggestions as to what Cottenham can do, as a community, to mark the millennium. Ideally, suggestions should be designed to bring as many people as possible together, be fun, and, if outdoors, should not involve standing around for long periods of time.

It is possible that we are suffering from 'millennium overload' and there really is no desire for yet another event over that period. We await your responses to see if this is the case.

G B Roofing

WATCHING BRIEF

How now, Macbeth?

Of course we take it for granted that we have a chemist here in Cottenham. Just a short step from the doctors' surgeries, we can exchange a prescription or just drop it in and pick up the goods later. Imagine having to go to Milton, Bar Hill or Cambridge.

We hear in the news that small local pharmacies are under threat from the Great and Greedy. It may be a good time to stop and reflect on just what we have here – and on what we can do to ensure that our chemist doesn't become a casualty of commerce.

Mr Macbeth's pharmacy is a gem. Just like the quirky building it occupies, the shop is unashamedly old-fashioned. There's no brash shop-frontage or aggressive signage. What you see is what you get – a little store where providing a service to the community is valued more highly than a quick profit. The staff are gentle, helpful and – amazingly rare in shops these days – they actually know what they have in stock and what it's for. And if you need some advice about how to deal with minor ailments, Mr Macbeth or his deputy pharmacist will often oblige.

The shop can even outperform its urban rivals in some instances. For

example, Mrs Watchman tells me that, having failed to find a new make-up bag while Christmas shopping in Cambridge, she found the very thing at Macbeth's – at half the price she'd have expected to pay in town.

Indeed, Macbeth's is pretty much how village shops used to be. But this is no time for sentiment and nostalgia. For practical reasons we must take heed of the growing pressures on small pharmacies.

If the big players get their way, we shall end up having to trek to Milton or wherever to get our prescriptions changed. For the able-bodied it will be an inconvenience; for the sick and elderly it will be devastating. And for the village of Cottenham it will be one more erosion of those things which make this place unique.

So what do we do? Simple. We support Mr Macbeth, his loyal staff and the service they so excellently provide. Go there for all your shampoo, painkillers, toothbrushes, medicines, hot water bottles, toiletries, hair slides, photo-processing, prophylactics, reading glasses, indigestion remedies, *etc* – and sound medical advice too.

Mrs Watchman's make-up bag aside, it's true that in some cases you might have to pay a little more than you would at the supermarket – but not half as much as it would cost long-term if we were to lose our

delightful local pharmacy.

When the chips are down

Like many people, Watchman is becoming increasingly worried by the advancing spectre of the millennium bug. All this talk of chips going crazy as the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve is disturbing.

Can we be certain that the Cottenham Chip Shop will have its stock well under lock and key as we wend our way home in the early hours of the 21st century? And that the Co-op will have the lid firmly closed on the McCain's freezer compartment?

Think about all those domestic fridge-freezers as well. Watchman's advice is to take nothing for granted in the matter of pharmacies or millennium bugs. Prepare for the worst-case scenario. Ask yourself now: what would you do if you were suddenly confronted by a gang of enraged crinkle-cut oven chips?

Spot the spoof

That letter from 'name and address supplied' about the younger generation really got things going. But is Watchman really the only Cottenham resident who spotted it was a spoof? All that stuff about parking on the pavement outside the library and the disrespectful youth of today – I reckon it had mischief written all over it.

Watchman

The Oakington Therapy Centre. 12 High Street, Oakington, Cambridge. CB4 5AG

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THE OAKINGTON THERAPY CENTRE

COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The traffic saga continues. While parking restrictions at the Margett Street/High Street junction have finally been given the go-ahead subject to any objections from residents in the area, we seem to be making little progress on the matter of speed restrictions in Histon Road. The Council is asking the County Council to find an alternative to width restrictions. The latter would, we feel, cause unacceptable tail-backs at peak periods.

A resident has complained about the frequent deliveries by large articulated vehicles to the Co-op store, pointing out that this causes obstruction, noise and is potentially dangerous in view of the location of the entrance on a sharp bend. The Council has had discussions on this subject with the Co-op management in the past, and it is obvious that in order for the business to operate, deliveries must be made. However, manoeuvring any sizeable vehicle is made much more difficult if customers at the shop persist in parking thoughtlessly near the entrance, sometimes blocking it completely. In any case, parking at this point creates a hazard for normal road users and pedestrians. PLEASE DO

NOT PARK on this corner - there is a perfectly good car park behind the store, accessible from Denmark Road.

The annual Parish Meeting, was held on Wednesday 21st April at the Village College, but was poorly attended. This is disappointing in view of the fact that this is the one occasion in the year when residents are by law given the opportunity to express their views to the Council in a public meeting. However those that were present were unanimous in their concern about one matter: the level of petty crime, vandalism and criminal damage occurring in the village. In an earlier issue, we reported that the official statistics indicate that Cottenham is no worse than any other village of its size: that is no consolation if you are unfortunate enough to be a victim. Some of the incidents may appear trivial, and therefore may not be reported to the Police. This means that they are not recorded in the statistics, and unfortunately it seems to be a fact of today's life that unless the figures prove it, the problem does not exist! The Council will of course be making representations to the Police, but there is one thing that everyone can do - MAKE SURE

ALL INCIDENTS, HOWEVER TRIVIAL, ARE REPORTED TO THE POLICE. And when you do, ASK FOR AN INCIDENT NUMBER, without which the matter may not be included in the official statistics.

It is unfortunate in the light of the last paragraph that a rumour has surfaced suggesting that Cottenham is to lose its Community Beat Officer. The Council has received assurances from Insp. Howells at Histon that this is not the case. Although P.C. Dave Sayward is being transferred to a post in Cambridge, we are informed that the vacancy he leaves behind will be filled as soon as possible, (perhaps by the time this Newsletter is published). In the meantime an officer from the Histon sector will be assigned to give special attention to Cottenham. The Council would like to record its appreciation to Dave Sayward for his co-operation during his 2 1/2 years with us, and wish him every success in his new appointment.

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COTTENHAM'S GUIDING GANG!!

It seems ages ago when so many of you came and watched us making absolute fools of ourselves in the GANG SHOW. Just to jog your memories, it was way back in 1995!! When playing the part of Gary Glitter was a good thing. Yes that was me strutting my stuff in sequins, wig and all, and I'm still asking.... 'Do you want to be in my Gang?' - The Guide Association Gang that is!!

The gang show was great fun and all the people who took part in it are still enjoying themselves, but in lots of different ways.

I'll give you a clue.

Our 2 Rainbow, 3 Brownie and 2 Guide Units, with ages ranging from 5 to 15 years, have been having fun. OK, you perhaps don't see us having fun, but we do!!

Some of our leaders have been lucky enough to visit, through

Guiding, such far-away places as Denmark, Australia, Japan and Switzerland, sometimes with our own Guides, sometimes with Guides from various other parts of the UK. One leader went to Disneyland Paris with a group of Cambridge Brownies, so you can see the travel opportunities are seemingly endless.

However, it's not everyone's cup of tea to travel abroad. Our units have been to this region's purpose built holiday house at Newmarket, others have gone to Norfolk, Suffolk, Hampshire, Essex on activity weeks in either inside accommodation or under canvas. Plans as diverse as a Romany horse drawn caravan adventure, a water sports and rock-climbing weekend, and a Disco are in the pipeline at the moment.

Of course, it would be ridiculous to assume that each and every week in the year is adventurous. We have

great resources and are full of ideas and helpful hints, so each Unit Leader can put together well planned weekly meetings where all the girls learn something: whether it be a new game that helps co-ordination or memory, something practical like mending a fuse or orienteering, or perhaps something we all need - the knowledge of how to enjoy ourselves without hurting others.

There is so much going on in the Guiding Gang in Cottenham that I may have to write another essay!!

Perhaps you now have had a sudden urge to be in 'My Gang'.

Why not give me a call on 01954 - 200 811, or pop a note into 319 High Street, Cottenham. My name is Vivien, and I don't bite!!

R.J. CARPENTER, M.I.M.I.

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FIRE STATION SUPPORTS OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

Cottenham Fire Station have presented Daniel West with a cheque for £457.35. This was the amount raised from their successful '100 years of Retained Fire Fighters in Cottenham' Open-day held on 6th of June last year. The money will help Daniel to train and compete in the shot and discus at the Sydney Para Olympics. Daniel held world record in both these events before the last Para Olympics. We, at the Fire Station wish him every success at Sydney 2000.

PIC s/size cropped to fit

NAVAL TRIVIA

The only method of cooking meat on an 18th century man-of-war was boiling in a large communal pot. Each Mess, the name given to a group of seamen who fed together, attached their mess number to the joint so that they could recover it after cooking. The ship's cook was responsible for ensuring that the pot did not boil dry, and for removing the residue that floated to the surface, known as 'slush'. The slush was often sold, illegally, to the seamen to supplement their diet. The cook used his 'slush fund' to ensure that his other illegal dealings did not come to the notice of the officers.

Old Salt

LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND

Our thanks go once again to everybody who helped us to raise £555 for the Leukaemia Research Fund. It is humbling to see that year-after-year this event is supported in such a generous way.

We also wish to thank Gawthrop & Sons, The Cambridge Building Society, Wards the Greengrocers, Shauns News Agency and Clements Hardware, who all donated prizes for the raffle. Hopefully, locals will support them in return.

Joyce & Henry Fleck

SUMMER STENCH!

Summer is approaching and dog fouling continues to plague Cottenham pavements. It is unfortunate that a tiny minority of anti-social dog owners smear the reputation of the responsible and considerate majority. For the last summer of this millennium, please ensure that Cottenham is a sweeter smelling place by taking a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog.

As well as being unpleasant, fouling the pavements is an offence and responsible dog owners are liable for prosecution and a fine of up to £1000. If you witness a dog-owner failing to clean up, a gentle reminder may be all that is needed. Failing that the Dog Warden can be contacted through South Cambs. District Council on Cambridge 443 000.

A group of Cottenham residents is addressing this problem with the Dog Warden. If you have any ideas to contribute, please contact the editorial team.

OLD COTTENHAM – BOYHOOD MEMORIES

I have many indelible boyhood memories of the 30's. RAF Supermarine Spitfires from Duxford overhead. The colourful Romany caravan, that appeared annually in the little drift-way, halfway up Barrow Hill. Newts swimming in the meadow ponds. Horse drawn binders at harvest-time, and Mr E. Smith's traction engine at threshing-time, "steaming" with its drum, elevator and chaff cutter.

"Prince Abagasha" dancing on red-hot irons at Cottenham Feast, and the gifts of pink and white sugar mice at Christmas from our form mistress, Miss Jeeps, who cycled every day from Willingham to teach at the old Margett Street School. Great!

Over the course of the next few issues, I will share some of my memories with you, and reflect on a bygone time in Old Cottenham.

In the 1930's, Cottenham United F.C. played their home matches in 'Ivatts Field' off Histon Road, where Dunstal Field Estate is situated now. A pleasant football ground with its undulating playing surface. Visiting

teams referred to it as 'Cottenham's Celery Trenches'. If I were fortunate enough to be taken there by my older brother to watch a match, Mr Moore would be among the supporters. In those days, large crowds watched local matches, but Mr Moore was given space! His feet moved with the rhythm of the game, kicking out excitedly if Cottenham were on the attack. If they scored, his shout of "GAUL" would be heard. He owned a tricycle, which he rode in Rook Street really slowly, so slow in fact that Mr Fred Badcock's shire horses Blossom and Daisy muck carting with Tumbrel carts, had great difficulty overtaking him at times, as they headed for Long Drove and the Fen. Mr Moore always held the centre of the road. Mr Moore was a little man, round faced with a grey moustache and stubbly chin, he always wore a cap. He was known with locally affection as "Jimmy Ting".

Finally, may I add, that the characters and names I mention are remembered with admiration, affection and the greatest respect.

Michael Taylor

FEN EDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MILLENNIUM VIDEO

'Age Concern Millennium Awards' have given us a grant to enable a commemorative video to be produced, which will record life in Fen Edge Patch during the last year of the Millennium. The project is a joint effort of students and adults; generations working together.

In order to get as wide a variety of subject matter as possible, the following themes will be represented:

Fairs and Feasts, Drama, Youth Activities, Clubs (social), Clubs (sports), Churches, Family Events, Schools and Playgroups, Parish Councils.

All members of the community are invited to suggest possible events for consideration as items for inclusion in the video. A brief description, together with the event's date, should be sent to:

Mike Herbert, 20 Pelham Way,
Cottenham, Cambridge CB4 8TQ

HIGHGATE FARM REDUCE EXISTING AD
REMOVE XMAS TURKEYS

COTTENHAM VC SUMMER SCHOOL

Cottenham Village College Summer School will take place between August 9 - 13. For those who were thinking about spending 3 days playing Bridge in mid-August, the latest news is that all places in our Summer School are booked up. If, however, you would like to join in some other activity, you might still be lucky.

As well as last year's favourites, we feature some new and exciting topics:

- making pots with fire
- working with willow

- art activity workshop
- T'ai Chi.

We have been lucky enough to secure the talents of the Cambridge sculpture workshop, which will offer unique opportunities to explore sculpture in various media. Our courses of study with field visits include military aviation in East Anglia and researching Cambridgeshire History. Our brand new computer suite will introduce an innovative course on producing posters, ads, invitations (for absolute beginners).

Finally, if you want a cheap-o casual set-up, you can join Jasper Kay's walking group in the Fens - £10 for the full week, or £2.50 per day.

Pick up a brochure! Tell Your friends!

Further details: Cottenham Village College 01954 - 288944

Jenny Kay

COTTENHAM VILLAGE SOCIETY

The Society was formed in 1970, its aims being to:

- 1) Encourage high standards of architecture and planning.
- 2) Stimulate public interest in, and care for, the history, beauty and character of the village.
- 3) Encourage the preservation and development of features of public amenity or historic interest.

Our winter meetings (October to April) are held at Lamb's Lane School on the second Friday of the month - except December - at 7:45pm. As far as possible, talks on local subjects are preferred, while keeping some variety, e.g. recent subjects have been: 'Cambridgeshire from the air', 'Baffin Island' and the 'Icknield Way'.

There is tea and coffee after the talk, and this makes a nice kind of social occasion. So much so, that on occasion, we have to edge people

to the door.

There are three summer events:

- a conducted 'walk' around a local village
- a mini-outing (using members' own transport) to a reasonably near place of interest e.g. the Postal Sorting Office
- a barbecue on one of Cottenham's larger gardens.

The Society have published a series of booklets on Cottenham history, and have catalogued the inscriptions in the two cemeteries. The Society has also provided or funded several contributions to village amenities e.g. 2 public seats, plants and equipment for the Community Garden, and renovating and re-siting of the village sign. So as we have around 100 members and a regular attendance of between 50 and 60, we feel we have just about got it right!

The annual subscription is £3.00. For further details contact the

Secretary - John Daniels on 01954 - 252275.

Publications Available - contact Francis Garrett on 01223 - 355747

Cottenham - a glimpse into the past (£1.00)

Cottenham ablaze (£2.00)

Cottenham commons and cheese (£2.00)

Cottenham, Cambridgeshire monumental inscriptions. The Parish Church of All Saints (£3.50)

A history of Cottenham's inns and hostelries (£2.00)

Cottenham's orchards and gardens (£2.00)

Cottenham, Cambridgeshire monumental inscriptions. The Dissenters' cemetery (£5.50)

Cottenham in chaos (£2.00)

WANTED!

Females aged 18 to 65 for a new job opportunity within the village.

Interested ?

Minimum 2 hours weekly. In-house training given. World-wide travel a possibility.

Still interested ?

Good sense of humour and an ability to get on with children required.

INTERESTED???

Then come and be part of our team. Contact Vivien Lampard at 319 High Street, Cottenham (01954 - 200 811) and find out more about local opportunities in Guiding.

Yes! Guiding.

We urgently need you to save our 50 year old Brownie Unit from closure.

It's changed a lot recently. We don't just do knots and knitting! In fact, I can't remember anyone in our team knitting!! (There was a time we tried it blindfolded with broom handles and rope.....but that's another story!)

COTTENHAM CRICKET

The new season is now underway and we are determined to continue the progress the club made last summer in gaining promotion and winning the Lower Junior Cup.

So, would any cricketers, new to the village, who are willing and able to join us in continuing to raise the profile of Cottenham cricket, please contact Mick Dean (Club Secretary) on 01954 - 250037 for details of fixtures, net-practice etc.

Would parents also please note that junior cricket teams at both under-11 and under-13 levels are also running this season.

P A D S

Decorating Service

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Miller Associates

WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGE

THE MID ANGLIA MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS THERAPY CENTRE

To help raise funds for the above centre, Barbara Ashton-Reader, an M S sufferer and co-ordinator of Cottenham Care Car, has taken the plunge and entered the M S Challenge 99.

Barbara will have the heroic pleasure of being strapped in her wheelchair complete with crash helmet and carried around a 7-mile orienteering course in Snowdonia

National Park, by twelve hunky young men.

The Challenge takes place over the weekend 2nd to 4th July and Barbara would like to challenge villagers to sponsor her to complete the course. Sponsorship forms will be available around the village, or can be obtained by ringing Barbara on 251837 or Keith on 250569.

Barbara and her wheelchair will be stationed outside the Cottenham Co-op on the morning of Saturday June 19th to answer questions about

her trip and collect sponsorship.

The Centre is an independent local charity part of a national network, providing support, advice and a range of therapies to MS sufferers. It serves Cambridgeshire and the surrounding area and is entirely self-supporting. The unit is too small to offer a full range of therapies and so a new Centre is planned including a hydrotherapy pool. The new facilities will be made available to anyone who would benefit.

NCT PARENT AND BABY GROUP

At home with a new baby? Come and meet other parents and babies (up to walking) in a small friendly group. Every Monday 10am to noon at: 53 Margett Street, Cottenham. Contact Karin Fitch on Cottenham 251700.

Windmill Kennels reduce to fit

R S MEMORIALS

TOPS DRIVING SCHOOL

ABACUS
EXECUTIVE PRIVATE HIRE CARS

**COUNT ON US
COTTENHAM**

01954 252340

BLANKETS FOR KOSOVO

Tony and Judy Smith and Brian and Liz Fraser would like to thank everyone who donated blankets, sleeping bags and clothes in response to their joint appeal for the Kosovo refugees over Easter.

Around 5 tons of blankets were collected in all and transported over to Bressingham near Diss, with the help of a mini-bus kindly loaned by Vic Pinner.

Just one week later, the blankets arrived in Albania and were immediately put to good use.

Thanks also to all the people who helped with transporting the blankets in their cars. This was a joint effort by the people of Cottenham and environs and we all hope that, in some small way, we helped to

relieve the suffering of the poor unfortunate refugees flooding out of Kosovo.

SHORT STORIES AND POETRY

I would like to invite readers to send in either original poetry or short stories for inclusion in the Cottenham Newsletter. Short stories should be no longer than 600 words. The objective should be to entertain the general readership - go on, have a go!

James

EDITORIAL TEAM

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Eddie Murphy onto the Cottenham Newsletter's editorial team. Eddie has already contributed to this edition, and I look forward to the newsletter becoming even more stimulating in forthcoming issues. A more robust organisation should help minimise potential disruption to the newsletter in the future.

James

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JASPER KAY'S BIRD REPORT

April 99

"Can you come? There's a strange bird in the garden". I abandon my cup of tea, grab my binoculars and jump on my bike. Usually, by the time I arrive, the bird has gone! But this time, luck was on my side, and several of us were able to watch a black redstart, (yes, that really is its name!) in Beagles Court in the centre of the village. The bird is a little larger than a sparrow, rather dull brown in colour, but when it flicks its tail, it shows a rich reddish brown colour. It is quite common in the mountains of continental Europe and I am told that it liked bombed sites in London after the war. Indeed, one spent a week in King's Cross Station! In any case, it is a first in Cottenham in recent years.

Another unusual bird reported is a wryneck. Three were seen on two occasions in a garden on the High

Street. They belong to the woodpecker family and have a complex patterned plumage of brown and grey. Some summer birds were recorded here during the first week of April - chiffchaff, blackcap, willow warbler and swallow, but the bigger flocks have clearly been delayed by the cold weather. The Long Drove 'lagoon' has provided much interest. The birds seen there regularly include oyster catchers, redshank, lapwings, shelduck and herons. A sparrowhawk paid a swift visit to our bird table and another was seen snatching a robin from a garden near the Village College. A kingfisher has been seen again on the Cottenham Lode, and common sandpipers on the Old West river. In spite of the cold weather, breeding has been evident. As I write (mid-April), there are large young blackbirds and thrushes in the garden

being fed by their overworked parents.

Jasper Kay

Scarecrow Competition

As part of the Arts Fair on Sunday July the 4th, we are hoping to have a 'Festival of Scarecrows'. You are invited either as a family, a group, or as an individual to construct a life-size character, who will spend the day either at the Village College or somewhere else in the village where it can be seen by others. No skill is required - just a bit of ingenuity and some old clothes!

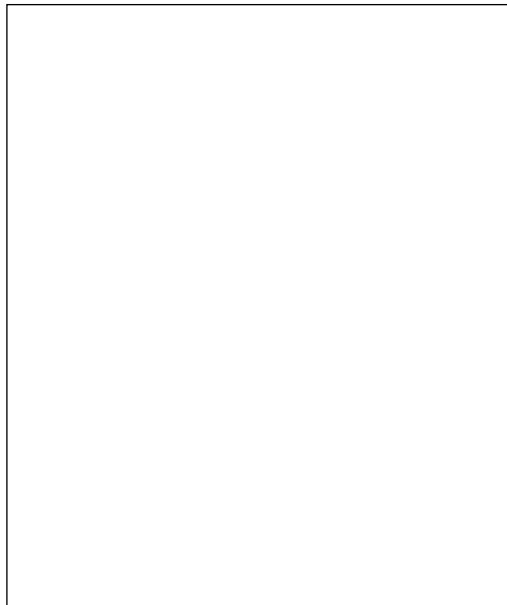
For further details and an entry form, please get in touch with me at 85, High Street, or on 01954 - 250285.

Go on - have a go!

Jasper Kay

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ARTICLES, DATES AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

E-mail, PC floppy disk and paper submissions are all welcome. Please contact me if you have any questions. Dates of events to be advertised in the next issue (No. 52) should span the last week of July, August and September.

James

Dear editors

What a shame the Parish Council did not use their article in the March/April edition to publicise the Annual Parish Meeting. I have attended many of these in the past and sadly over the years the number of residents present has declined to a mere handful. I was not present this year, perhaps things had changed, but I do feel everyone should be encouraged to take an interest and allow their opinions to be heard when occasions such as this give the opportunity. Also noted - the meeting was not included in the Village Diary!

Pat Copson

CHANGE TO ISSUE PERIOD ANNOTATION

The Cottenham Newsletter is published every two months. The months listed next to the issue number on the front page will be altered to reflect the actual two month period covered by that issue of the newsletter. This issue is, therefore, annotated 'June/July 1999'. The publishing schedule will not be altered - we will not miss a month. Advertisers of events will be surer that their articles are published in the appropriate issue.

SUMMER PLAY DAYS

Ladybirds Pre-School will be open on Wednesday and Thursday mornings during the summer holidays from 9am to 1pm for children from 3 years to school age (starting school September 1999). Each session costs £8 per child, and sessions must be pre-booked at the Ladybirds Pre-School. Parents and carers are welcome to stay with their children.

Dear editors

John and Brenda Buttifant would like to thank the kind hearted people of Cottenham for their concern and interest since the diagnosis of Brenda's illness. Surgery is over and an intense course of treatment has begun. We have received almost 200 cards, also letters, flowers, food, phone calls - all overwhelming and impossible to reply to individually. So we are taking this opportunity - through our excellent newsletter - to try to reach everyone. Thanks to one and all.

Brenda and John

(Brenda, Our thoughts are with you and we wish you a speedy recovery! -Eds)

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SARAH JANE

LETTERS to the Editors

Dear editors

Having just read all the letters in issue 50 of the Newsletter I found myself somewhat mystified and amused. Why had most of the writers opted to withhold their names and addresses? I too found the person who parked their car on the pavement and then complained about the young mother somewhat difficult to understand.

I was born in Cottenham nearly 50 years ago. My grandson is, I believe, at least the 9th generation of our family to live in Cottenham. I have watched the village and its people expand. Sometimes, not for the better. I have watched 'old Cottenham' come to terms with the new. You no longer have to live in the village 25 years to become a member.

I find the parking and the speed restrictions in the village something of a joke and obstacle. Having recently moved back into the village from Rampton I found it very difficult to go to the post office or the chemist because I could not park my car. I for one would like our chemist and post office to stay open. The staff in both establishments are very friendly and helpful, and I do not want to pop long to my super-market for everything.

Another disaster area for parking is northwards from the doctors in the High Street to Broad Lane island. This area is a serious accident waiting to happen. As for Broad Lane island, should you come up from the shops in the High Street and want to turn round, as many do, this is nearly impossible unless you take a shunt.

Traffic calming measures seem to have been missed from Rampton Road, Oakington Road and Histon

Road. I wonder why. On occasions when I have walked on the public footpath from Rampton to Cottenham I always found it a 'hair-raising' experience, with the traffic still doing well above the speed limit when passing the speed restriction signs.

With all the new building now being undertaken in the village and its rapid expansion, perhaps everyone of us in Cottenham who use the footpaths and the roads ought to put our thinking caps on. We should put our thoughts both to the Parish Council and the County Council, while we still have the opportunity to do so.

Mrs Irene Baldry (nee Yaxley)

Dear editors

I read with great interest your letters in response to the person who parked a car on the pavement and then complained. Whilst not wishing to labour the point, I would like to add that since the population of this country is living longer, the use of scooters by the elderly is on the increase. Since I had to give up driving and riding a bicycle for health reasons, I now get out and about driving a three wheeled scooter, which helps enable me to keep my independence.

There are hazards in using this mode of transport. Firstly, the camber and condition of the pavements leaves much to be desired. However, contact with the County Council was met with sympathy and a ramp was built on the pavements at the junction of Rook Street with

the High Street as a result. I was also assured that repair work to the pavement would also be done.

By far the greatest hazard are the many cars and vans that are parked on the pavement, especially at weekends. During my contact with the County Council Highways Department, I was told that not only was this illegal, but it does great damage to the pavements, with the repair costs reflected in our Council Tax.

I would remind all readers who break the law and park on the pavements that they were babes in push chairs once, and will be elderly themselves one day. So spare a thought for all pedestrians, mum's with push chairs, the handicapped and elderly on scooters. A little consideration for everyone who shares the amenities of our village is all it needs.

Joy Perry

Letters for publication may be sent to the Editors, and should include the name and address of the sender, although this may be omitted from publication if requested. Please keep correspondence short and topical. Please note that the Editors may use their discretion regarding publication, and their decision is final. The views expressed by correspondents and other contributors are their own and are not necessarily shared by the Editors.

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**Contact Peter Robertson on
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Deadline

**FOR NEXT ISSUE
25th JUNE**

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police.....	Community Beat Officer.....	01223 358966
	Central Control.....	01480 456111
Doctors.....	Dr. Julie Gould, 188 High Street.....	250079
	Dr. M. Grande, 42 Telegraph Street.....	251180
Community Nurses.....	Answerphone or between 1.00 - 2.00 pm.....	251071
Cottenham CareCar.....	Co-ordinator, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm.....	251837
Cottenham Day Centre.....	Mrs. M. Gilbey, 45 Victory Way.....	251802
Cottenham Helpline.....	Co-ordinator, Monday/Friday (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....	201590
	Wednesdays (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....	250937
Salvation Army.....	Major Colin Hobson, 15 Pelham Close.....	250524
Dentist.....	Mr. Faber, Old Telephone Exchange, 40 Margett Street.....	251696
Chemist.....	R. Macbeth, 222 High Street.....	250556
Chiropodist.....	J.R. Kain, 13 Pelham Close.....	251143
Osteopath.....	R.J. Giddings, 12 High Street, Oakington.....	01223 237459
Veterinary Surgeon.....	R. Hughes-Parry, 66 High Street.....	252122
Schools.....	Cottenham Village College and Community Office.....	288944
	County Primary, Lambs Lane.....	250227
Pre-School.....	Lady birds Pre-School, Recreation Ground.....	250891
Out of School Club.....		201661
Council Offices.....	South Cambs. District Council.....	01223 443000
	Cambridgeshire County Council.....	01223 717111
Parish Council.....	Clerk - P.J. Sanderson, 37 Broad Lane.....	250836
District Councillor.....	Rex Collinson, 20 Rampton Road.....	251377
	Tim Wotherspoon, 135 High Street.....	252108
County Councillor.....	Peter Stroude, Home Farm, Longstanton, CB4 5BT.....	01954 780008
British Red Cross.....	Cambridge Office.....	01223 354434
Citizens Advice.....	CAB, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.....	01223 353875
Social Services.....	Etheldred House, Histon.....	01223 235105
NSPCC.....	Cottenham Area Team, Peterborough.....	01733 558245
RSPCA.....	Area Number, Peterborough.....	0990 555999
Samaritans.....	Cambridge Centre.....	01223 364455
Railway Station.....	Cambridge, Passenger Enquiries.....	0345 484950
Taxi.....	Milton Cars.....	01223 441616
Library.....	Margett Street.....	273322
Library Doorstep Service.....	Hilary Firth.....	01223 718358
Parish Church.....	The Rev'd Ian Friars, The Rectory, 6 High Street.....	250454
Baptist Church.....	The Rev'd Paul Lane, The Manse, 3 Goode Close.....	252378
Methodist Church.....	The Rev'd Helen Gardner, Wesley House, 250 High Street.....	250242

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