

# SAVE OUR POST OFFICE

There's a lot of bad news about at the moment what with the foot and mouth crisis, flooding, train accidents and the like. At the risk of adding to the burden of bad news, I'm afraid to have to say that the village post office is at risk. The post office is struggling to stay afloat as a business at the moment. The current bad situation will get much worse next year when the government switches to paying all pensions direct to the bank accounts of pensioners.

The post office is an enormously valuable community resource providing access to a whole range of services for us all. Everybody uses it to some extent. To a significant minority of Cottenham residents, it is the only realistic way they can access these services. Its loss would be an inconvenience for all of us and a disaster for many.

Kim Holland, our postmistress, tells me that there is one significant development which may help the business remain viable when pensions are no longer paid through the post office. At the moment, Cottenham Post Office is not allowed to collect road tax on behalf of the government. Allowing it to collect road tax would greatly enhance the viability of the business.

This is where you can do something to help. If we write to our MP asking him to intervene with the Post Office hierarchy to give Cottenham Post Office the right to collect vehicle tax then the restriction might be lifted and the future of the local post office would be made more secure.

There is nothing unique about the problems faced by the post office in Cottenham. Rural post offices are closing down at the rate of 200 a year. However, it is essential that Cottenham Post Office is allowed to compete with other offices on a

level playing field if it is to have a real chance of survival in these difficult times.

You can reach our MP at the following address:

James Paice MP, House of Commons, Westminster SW1A 0AA

If keeping the post office is important to you, then please write.

## Farewell Watchman

It is with considerable regret that I hear from The Watchman that he is hanging up his quill (a copy of his letter is included in the letters page). He is renowned for the robustness of his opinions. Many will also recall his championing of local businesses even if he did incur the wrath of a few for pointing out that they have a nice pub in Oakington. I will miss reading his lively contribution to The Newsletter and wish him well in "retirement".

*Eddie Murphy*

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place on Thursday 19th April at 8:00pm at the Village College. This is the one formal occasion when you are entitled to speak and the Parish Council has to listen! Can you resist such an opportunity?!

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# VILLAGE DIARY

## March

- 22nd Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn,  
10:00am – 12:00pm
- 24th 10 Mile Mystery Circular Walk, starting at Cottenham Village  
College, 9:00am
- 27th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting, Cottenham Village College,  
7:30pm
- 30th Cottenham Gardeners Club, The Potager – a decorative vegetable  
garden, Mrs Alison Davies, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm
- 30th Cottenham Seniors Club, Aromatherapist demonstration plus talk by  
Mrs Jo Evans, Cottenham Village College Common Room 2:30pm

## April

- 5th Cottenham Toy Library, Regular Session, Salvation Army Barn,  
2:15pm – 4:15pm
- 6th Cottenham Village Society, Mr P Hewitt: Famous fen people,  
Primary School 7:45pm
- 7th Salvation Army, Jumble Sale, Salvation Army Barn,  
10:00am – 11:30am
- 11th Cottenham Women's Institute – Inlaid Porcelain (Demonstration plus  
display of goods) – Anna McArthur, Franklin Gardens Community  
Centre 7:30pm
- 12th Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn,  
10:00am – 12:00pm
- 13th Salvation Army, Good Friday Service, Salvation Army Hall, 7:00pm
- 19th Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn,  
10:00am – 12:00pm
- Cottenham Toy Library, Regular Session, Salvation Army Barn,  
2:15pm – 4:15pm
- Cottenham Parish Council, Annual Parish Meeting, Cottenham Village  
College, 8:00pm
- 27th Cottenham Gardeners Club, The rise and fall of fruit farming in  
Cottenham, Olwyn Peacock, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm
- Cottenham Seniors Club, Making of Cheese plus demonstration by  
Mrs Gale, Cottenham Village College Common Room, 2:30pm
- Motionhouse Dance, Cottenham Village College, 7:30pm
- 28th Salvation Army, Spring Sale, Salvation Army Barn,  
10:00am – 12:00pm

## May

- 3rd Cottenham Toy Library, Regular Session, Salvation Army Barn,  
2:15pm – 4:15pm
- 5th Salvation Army, Jumble sale, Salvation Army Barn  
10:00am – 12:00pm
- 8th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting, Cottenham Village College,  
7:30pm
- 9th Nightingales at Milton Country Park, Cottenham Village College,  
6:30pm
- 11th Cottenham Seniors Club, Bring and Buy Sale plus Annual General  
Meeting, Cottenham Village College Common Room, 2:30pm
- Cottenham Gardeners Club
- 12th Salsa Evening, Cottenham Village College, 8:00pm for tuition,  
9:00pm for dancing
- 13th Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, Guided walk around Overhall Grove,  
Knapwell led by Sarah Johnson. Meet at Knapwell Village Church  
at 2:00pm
- 17th Cottenham Toy Library, Regular Session, Salvation Army Barn,  
2:15pm – 4:15pm
- 19th Cottenham Seniors Club, Annual Party, Cottenham Village College  
Common Room 3:30pm
- 25th Cottenham Gardeners Club, Low maintenance gardening,  
Mr Ron Hatfield, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm

## SMALL ADS

**FOR SALE: 'G'-PLAN TABLE 5'** long extends to 7'. 6 matching chairs. Solid wood – good condition. £150 – no reasonable offer refused.  
*Tel: 01954 251451*

.....

**TEAK DESK**, wall-mounted, space saving with two small drawers, reference shelf, strip light and three book shelves. Suit teenager. £35.  
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**FOR SALE: ANTIQUE TWIN BEDS** 3 foot Victorian Iron Frame 1860's. Restored with solid padded base and good quality spring mattress. Excellent condition. £250 each (offers considered). *Tel: 01954 251451*

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**FOR THEIR FORTHCOMING PRODUCTION** (see CTW news) Cottenham Theatre Workshop need a small sofa, possibly with matching armchair. Price negotiable! *Contact Sue 01954 252329*

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**CHILD CARE** : full-time or part-time child care wanted for two children, one aged 15 months and the other nearly 3 (who attends play group two mornings a week). Registered child-minder or nursery would be ideal, but alternatively, we would be happy to talk to a caring adult who would look after the children at our home. *Tel: 01954 250300*

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**FULLY TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED CERAMICIST** seeks workshop space in Cottenham Area. Please contact *Clare Hall on 01954 203596*

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**Why not advertise in the Newsletter!** Items for sale, announcement of family events...

**5p per word, with all proceeds going to charity. Send advertisements and payment to the editors.**

**Cheques should be made payable to 'Cottenham Newsletter'.**

## FEN EDGE PATCH NEED HELP!

The Activities Committee needs new members to help organise our extensive programme for 2001: Fun Run, Autumn Show, Art Exhibition, Feast of Sound Quiz Night and New Year's Eve party night. Just an occasional few hours is all it takes. A meeting at the College in the Staff Room will be held on Tuesday 20th March at 8:00pm and anyone interested in joining will be welcome.

ALSO: A Treasurer for the Finance & General Purposes Committee is required. Only a few hours per annum is needed to keep the records in order. Ring Geoff Redhead at the College tel: 288944 if you are interested.

## MEDIATION SERVICE

If you have a disagreement with a neighbour, family member or anyone else that you cannot solve, what do you do? Why not try the Cambridge Mediation Service (CMS) which, since 1993, has helped hundreds of people in Cambridge and the surrounding area to solve their disputes. Through mediation, anger, tension and fear that arise from conflict can be overcome and peace of mind in home and neighbourhood restored.

The CMS offers a confidential, free and impartial service to help you resolve your disputes. A case usually begins with a telephone call to the office. If the problem is appropriate for mediation, two trained mediators visit each of the people in dispute separately in their homes. If both parties are willing, a mediation session is arranged in a convenient neutral place. Solutions are not imposed but mediators help people to work together to come to an agreement.

For further information contact the CMS office on 01223 301514 or write to Cambridge and District Mediation Service, Llandaff Chambers, 2 Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1AX.

## CONTACTING THE POLICE

**WHEN URGENT** – If life or property is at immediate risk, an offender or a suspicious person is still in the vicinity or a crime is in progress or has just happened, e.g. in last few minutes: **DIAL 999**

At the end of your call ask for an Incident Number or Crime Number. This will help if you need to call the Police again.

**TO REPORT A CRIME** – that happened some time ago e.g. several hours; to find out how an investigation is going or to provide further information about a previous crime: **Dial 01223 358966** and ask for the **CRIME MANAGEMENT UNIT** for your area. If you do not know the Division you are in, ask the operator for guidance. Always tell your neighbourhood watch co-ordinator what you have reported.

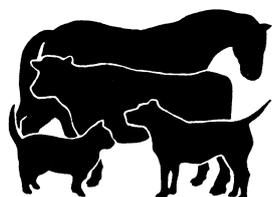
**REPORTING A SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT** – **Dial 01223 358966** and ask for the **FORCE CONTROL ROOM**

**CONTACTING THE POLICE WHEN NOT URGENT** – To speak to your local Police Officer or local Police Station call **01223 358966** and ask for the Station required. **REMEMBER** though, that your Local Community Beat Officer is not on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you need your query to be dealt with as soon as possible speak to whoever answers the telephone at the local station. If you need to leave a message for a particular Officer you can do so by this method.

**REMEMBER WE ARE ALL WORKING TOGETHER, THE MORE HELP WE GIVE THE POLICE, THE EASIER IT IS FOR THEM TO HELP US. PLEASE DO NOT ABUSE THE SYSTEM**

*David Howell – Inspector, Histon Sector*

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# SWIM OR SINK

Cottenham's community swimming pool is already preparing for the spring-summer season but could face closure this year if new funds cannot be found to cover the high cost of maintenance and to pay for trained supervisors during the summer months. There are also likely to be more gaps in the timetable this season unless new volunteers can be recruited.

Cottenham is privileged to have had its own open-air swimming pool in the grounds of the Village College for 30 years, but this April 28th could see the last Fun Run day swimming if sufficient funds cannot be raised in time for next year's opening. The Community Pool is run by a volunteer band of supervisors and expertly maintained by Village College grounds staff. However, while entrance fees and funds in reserve have in the past been sufficient to cover costs, the end of this season will see the committee holding no reserve for next year's maintenance and supervisor costs.

In 1999, the Pool committee received a generous donation from Cottenham Parish Council to pay for a much-needed new lining for the pool. Continued support from the other councils in the Fen Edge Patch helped cover some of the costs. While last year, the Cambridge Building Society provided funds to help pay for essential 'Bronze Medallion'

training for a supervisor. With your support, Cottenham's Community Pool could continue to run for many more years.

If you and your family like a swim, be sure to dive in this season. The committee is now recruiting new volunteers to help supervise sessions. Appropriate first-aid and life-saving training is given free at the College for volunteers and you only have to commit to supervising as many sessions as you can. It's fun and you would be helping us provide a safe environment for adults and children to take part in one of the healthiest sports. The committee hope to run adults, family, toddler, early-birds and lane swimming sessions again this year.

The committee is also seeking a key worker to handle the rota during the summer months. A perfect, paid, summer vacation job for a youngster in the village?

The Community Pool will close for good at the end of this year without more support.

If you would like to get involved or you could make a donation, however, small please get in touch with the committee via the Village College tel: 01954 288944.

*David Bradley*

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## £59,600 TO BUILD NEW SCOUT CENTRE IN MARGETT STREET

In January 1999 we started to build the new Scout Centre in Margett Street. The money to pay for this self-build project came initially from fund-raising, generous donations from Peter and Shirley Sanderson and from the Parish Council. Once the project got going, we were able to show other potential funding bodies what we could do with limited funding. We then received grants of £35,600, £10,000 and £3,000 from the National Lottery Charities Board, Foundation for Sport and the Arts and South Cambridgeshire District Council respectively. The whole project cost £59,600.

Although we started in 1999 most of the work took place last winter. A team of helpers worked on the building every weekend from October to May. They were allowed the Christmas weekend off although someone was spotted fixing a loose tarpaulin on the roof on Christmas Day. The building was finally opened in May 2000 and we now approach the end of our first year in our new facilities.

For those people who have not seen the building, which is centrally heated throughout, there is a 17 by 6.5 metre main hall with attached female, male and disabled toilets and a kitchen. There is a wheel chair ramp into the building and an epoxy resin non-slip floor throughout.

As the building was partially funded by the village and as most of the work apart from plastering and bricklaying was undertaken by volunteers (okay there was a bit of arm twisting) it is only right that the village should get full use out of these fantastic facilities. The building is used every evening during the week from 6:00pm but is available for hire at £5 per half-hour during the daytime and at weekends. Lower rates could be negotiated for new groups who are just starting up. We do not hire it out for birthday parties.

If you are interested in using the new Scout Centre please ring Ian Griffiths (01954 251798).

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# LATEST NEWS FROM COTTENHAM THEATRE WORKSHOP

Following the complimentary remarks from Jasper Kay about our Christmas production of 'Follow the Star' in the last edition of *The Newsletter*, our little chests are puffed up with pride! However, it's now back to work and our many members are busy with two forthcoming projects.

The first is the Spring play, which this year will be Alan Ayckbourn's 'COMMUNICATING DOORS', to be performed 2-5 May, 2001. Ayckbourn is a constant favourite with CTW, and many other groups. He is modern, funny, thought-provoking and a joy to be involved with. This is the fourth play of his that we have done and, again, it's a challenge!

It is billed as a comedy thriller and it has echoes of the old film 'Psycho'. The play is set in a London hotel suite and is a story of business misdoings and murder, and besides all that it goes through several time zones, as participants go through a 'communicating door' in the suite - (don't ask - you'll just have to come and see it!).

Sue Macdonald is again directing and her cast (some of whom have to lose or gain twenty years in as many seconds) is: Duncan McCallum as Harold; John Unwin as sadistic hit-man Julian (typecasting again!); Clive Borrow as sinful yet

saintly Reece; Robin Morgan as Poopay the Dominatrix; Melissa Ross and Mary Garside as Reece's wives numbers one and two. Melissa, incidentally, is our first recruit from our website - I knew technology would pay off eventually! If you would like to visit our website you can find it on [www.cottenhamtheatreworkshop.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.cottenhamtheatreworkshop.freeserve.co.uk)

Our Box Office will again be at Rook Street, telephone 01954 201702.

Our summer production this year is as yet in its infant stages of planning, but will be an all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza called 'STARSTRUCK!'. Not many details about this yet, but if there are any readers out there who would like to make this year their debut year on the stage at the Village College we would make you very welcome!

Please contact Clive tel: 01954 252693, Sue tel: 01954 252329, or Matthew tel: 01954 251101 and we will do all we can to help.

We love working on all this - we'd love to share it with you. Please try and put a night aside for a good night out in Cottenham!

## COTTENHAM FUN RUN

The fun run is nearly upon us again! The run itself will take place on Saturday April 28th at 10:30am. As usual, the run will begin and end at Cottenham Village College. There are categories for all ages and registration will be done on the morning of the event from 9:00am onwards. Adults are subject to a registration fee of £3.00 with children able to register for £1.50. The course length is approximately 4.5 miles - so get training now!

If you require further information please telephone 01954 200138.

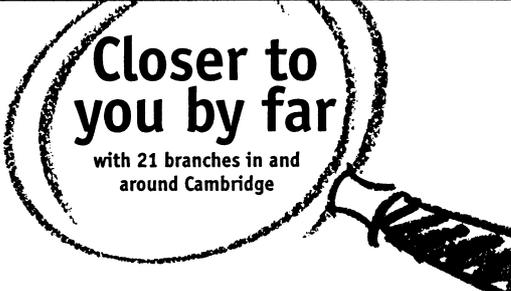


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# TALES FROM THE WHITE HORSE

Having become established at the White Horse (see previous *Newsletters*), the time came when we decided that we needed, and could afford, some help. We put an advertisement in the public bar window: "Cleaning lady required 2/6 per hour" ("Lady" was a politically correct word in the 1960s). We had several applicants but we decided to take the first – a local lady, named Win, who had lived in the village all her life. She lived in the little cottage – currently empty – next to Dentons Carpets (which in those days was a barn belonging to a farmer). The cottage had no electricity (gas lighting) and was not on the main supply for water and sewage having missed out when the services were installed in the 1950s.

She was a lovely lady – very hardworking and reliable – but a constant source of entertainment to us "townies". She had lived in the village all her life – in the same cottage all her married life. Rampton to her was a day out. Cambridge a once a year adventure. The furthest she had ever been was as a young woman on the train to Hunstanton on the old steam railway line that used to run from Cambridge to Hunstanton with stations in Histon, Oakington and all the other villages on the way. Local people used to walk from Cottenham to Oakington for the train ride to Hunstanton and then walk back from Oakington on the return. It was a very popular day out – especially on a Sunday.

Her husband worked for one of the local farmers on the High Street. His pride and joy was his motor car, an old Austin, I think. He was not a very good driver and I'm sure he had never passed a driving test. When he came to pick his wife up from work – which he did occasionally and always with advance warning – we would all crowd into the public bar window to watch. Win would wait outside and Ernie would drift up to the kerb, never quite stopping, and swing open the passenger door. Win would do a hop and a skip and hurl herself into the passenger seat – the door would swing shut and Ernie would accelerate away with a roar and a cloud of exhaust fumes. We did laugh.

Ernie was an early victim of road rage. There were a lot of new residents in the village with the completion of Lyles Road, Dunstal Field and Coolidge Gardens. Ernie was used to the old ways – the quiet roads with little traffic and everyone knowing everyone. He made no allowances in his driving for the increase in traffic and the newcomers. So he followed his usual practice of going to work in his old car and turning into the farmyard without warning. One day this

habit caused a newcomer to the village to narrowly avoid an accident and he pulled up and went after Ernie and started shouting at him. Ernie listened to him in amazement and said "but everyone knows I always turn in here".

A team from the White Horse played in the Darts League for many years and Warren always went on the away matches and took a full car load of players and supporters. One away match, before we knew Win and Ernie, was in the depths of the Fen and Ernie was one of Warren's passengers. He offered to guide Warren into the parking space, which was very dark and cramped. "Back", he said, "back....back...back" followed by "WHOA" as Warren hit the wall.

Win stayed with us quite a few years, increasing her hours as we got busier. She was an avid knitter and could follow the most complicated pattern. She made me a beautiful shawl for my first baby (which I still have) and later, when we were four, she made each of us an Aran sweater, using the correct Aran yarn. These were real works of art. We were very sorry when she decided to retire.

*Rosalie Dunnico*

## A PLEA TO MUMS IN COTTENHAM

We are a young, married couple desperate to start a family, but we cannot. I have been diagnosed with 'Premature Ovarian Failure' making it impossible for my ovaries to produce any eggs.

Our only chance is to find an anonymous donor willing to donate one month's supply of eggs to the Bourn Hall Infertility and Assisted Conception Clinic. Can you help us? You need to be aged 19 to 35 and be willing to travel to Bourn Hall on 5-7 occasions (travel expenses and childcare costs would be covered).

We are a loving, young couple who so much wants to become a mummy and daddy. You are our only hope, please help us.

For further information IN CONFIDENCE call the donor co-ordinator: Gillian Bellars, Bourn Hall Clinic, Bourn, Cambridge CB3 7TR. Tel: 01954 717221.  
Please quote reference: 'Precious Gift'.

G B Roofing

# NEWS FROM THE FEN EDGE PATCH

## Summer School

Now in its sixth year, the Cottenham Summer School at the Village College has established itself as first choice for a convivial and friendly atmosphere, value for money, and great food. The constantly changing list of courses are delivered by excellent experienced tutors. This year the school runs from 6th – 10th August. For details contact Cottenham Village College.

## Fearless

The Motionhouse Dance Theatre presents Fearless on Friday April 27th at 7:30pm. Fearless is contemporary Physical Dance at its most accessible. It is about phobias – fear of falling, fear of flying, fear of open or closed spaces. Motionhouse's new production is a powerhouse of extreme physical action. The three dancers launch and hurl themselves across platforms, swing and shimmy on Escher inspired landscapes, and leap and dive into a 'bouncy castle' pool.

The setting for Fearless is a transformable series of places and the mood is by turns athletic and tender, poignant and funny. The sound used is a vibrant and eclectic mix of the teasingly familiar, the atmospheric and the just plain old sing along. Tickets for the show are available from Cottenham Village College £5.00 (£4.00 concessions).

## Salsa Dancing

Nelson Batista is an internationally known teacher of Latin and Salsa dancing. He will offer tuition before an evening of Latin dancing at Cottenham Village College on Saturday 12th May. Tuition will be from 8:00pm to 9:00pm with dancing from 9:00pm to midnight. Tickets are available from Cottenham Village College for £6 with tuition or £5 for dancing only.

## The usual suspects

The usual suspects play Gypsy Jazz in the Django Rheinhardt/Stefan Grapelli style, with a variety of classics from the twenties and thirties alongside original material. They will play at the New Old School House, Cottenham on Saturday 9th June from 8:00pm to 11:00pm. French food will be provided. Bring your own wine. Tickets are strictly

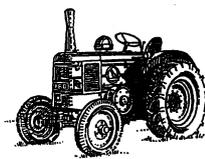
limited to 100 and can be obtained from Cottenham Village College 01954 288 944.

## Mystery Circular Walk

The Fen Edge Footpathers will be running a mystery circular walk of about 10 miles on Saturday March 24th leaving at 9:00am from the Village College. Contact 01954 250609 if you would like to participate.

## YESTERYEAR ROAD RUN

Sunday 22nd April



O

nce agr  
the Yesteryear Road Run. Come and see  
this very important fundraising day. It v  
watch the parade of vintage vehicles, '

Our route will start from Cotten'  
moving on to Rampton. Wi'  
where we will be stopp'  
(approx 12:30pm). Her  
cles at close quarter  
Oakington and P  
approximately 4:00pm

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near Road Run and each  
collecting for Magpas again  
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for all the family, please come and  
if you need any further information or  
way, please contact Rachael Nightingale

on c

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# HAPPY HOLIDAY

In the Spring of last year, local man Kelly Boutcher walked 100 miles non-stop to raise funds for local good causes. Among the beneficiaries from the funds raised were John and Terry who had a holiday to Egypt funded from the proceeds of the walk. The holiday was a great success and many thanks are due to the many donors from Cottenham, whose generosity enabled it to take place. The picture show Terry (left) and John (right) at Sharm el Sheikh enjoying the holiday.



## BOWLS CLUB OPEN DAY

Once again, Cottenham Bowls Club invites you to participate in and enjoy a friendly game of bowls during the summer season (May to September). The green, which has recently been improved, can be found at the Recreation Ground, Lambs Lane. Our club welcomes ladies and gentlemen, young and old to take part in this fascinating pastime. The club competes in four leagues, one of which is for afternoon players allowing us to participate in plenty of games against local teams as well as club competitions. Our club barbecue drives are also very popular.

If you feel you would like to "have a go" then why not come along to our open day on Saturday 21st April between 10:00am and 4:00pm. It won't cost you a penny. You will have the opportunity to meet some of our members and to try your hand on our greens, or just watch if you prefer. Bowls and light refreshments will be provided throughout the day. Please wear flat-soled shoes if you wish to play.

You can get further information by contacting Tony Harding (01954 252734) or Peter Greetham (01954 204484).

## COTTENHAM GOES MULTI-CULTURAL

The Cottenham Toy Library is delighted to announce the purchase of a set of multi-cultural toys funded by the Cottenham British Schools Trust. The collection consists of dolls from Africa, Asia and the Far East in gender pairs. Each pair is dressed in traditional costumes with six children's dressing up outfits to match the dolls.

There is an increasing amount of teaching in both school and pre-school on aspects of different cultures, especially festivals. This increase is in response to the Government's Early Learning Goals as set out in the National Curriculum. The Cottenham Toy Library is adding the toys to its stock to assist parents to help their children understand that we live in a diverse society and to help them learn about the traditions of different cultures. The toys will be made available to all groups and individuals who are members of the Toy Library.

Cathie Stableford, chair of Cottenham Toy Library said: "We are very excited to have these beautifully-made dolls and clothing. I am confident that they will be in great demand from childcare groups and local parents."



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# BIRD REPORT

The 14th of February is known, among other things, as the birds' wedding day. This year they couldn't have had a better day – blue sky, a warm day and a real feeling that spring was on the way. Garden birds were singing cheerfully, robins, tits, dunnocks, wrens and thrushes, and in the countryside there were meadow pipits and skylarks.

That week was a good week for birds. In the fields we saw large flocks of lapwings and of fieldfares. There were plenty of yellowhammers and reed buntings. There were gold finches in the hedges and by the old West River we saw cormorants and a short-eared owl. Later, I saw a barn owl hunting along the ditches at the north end of Long Drove. I was also very pleased to see a pair of shelduck recently arrived on the Long Drove Lagoon.

Ever since the new year, rooks have been building nests in the trees on the Green and at the end of Broad Lane. In mid-February, I saw the first black-headed gulls in their summer

plumage – an encouraging sight. At least two pairs of black-caps have been reported in the area and a woodpecker was drumming in Rampton Spinney.

Again and again I am reminded that birding is full of surprises. Why should I see five snipe in one day all in different places but none for days afterwards? Why should I see six herons all flying together when they are usually so solitary. Why do we have so many lapwings and skylarks when nationally they are declining? And what are all these gulls doing which fly north-west over the village in late afternoon?!

Other surprises have been bullfinches in Church Lane, goldcrests in Rampton, a water rail on Long Drove, a barn owl in Ivatt Street and long-tailed tits all over the place. As Bill Oddie says: "This is what birding is about, and I love it".

*Jasper Kay – February 2001*

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## COTTENHAM BOUNDARIES SURVEY

After a successful one-day trial survey of hedgerows by the Environment Audit Group [see Dec/Jan *Newsletter*] we've now settled on surveying Cottenham's boundaries, be they fences, ditches, lodes, hedgerows or what have you. We want to find out what's there, and what's important to conserve.

Our survey is planned to start on 1st May 2001 and we need volunteers to carry it out. A training session for volunteer surveyors has been arranged for 21st April and 29th April 2001, at Cottenham Village College (same session, repeated).

We are still preparing the survey, not least by seeking permission of landowners to walk boundaries on their land. We don't know exactly how many boundaries are involved, save that there's probably over 500! Neither do we know how long the survey will take. We hope the fieldwork part will take perhaps five or six months – it depends of course partly on how many volunteers come forward.

Volunteer surveyors don't need any previous experience – just attend one of the free training days to learn about plant identification and survey techniques. Volunteers should ideally be able to do a number of days surveying over the summer, in their own time, working in pairs.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested, please contact Peter Pilbeam on Cottenham 251544 or Andrew Withers on Cottenham 252173 for more details. We're keen to hear from you!

**A PLANT SALE** on 12th May 2001 10:00am to 1:00pm, in front of 243 High Street, Cottenham, (opposite the Post Office) is being held to raise funds jointly for the Environment Audit and the Cottenham Wildlife Trust. Bring and buy or just buy – all plants welcome!



## The Best Pre-School Learning Environment LADYBIRD PRE-SCHOOL, COTTENHAM TEL (01954) 250891



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# MOTORING MUSINGS

I occasionally see cars around the village that could be described as vintage – Austin Seven, VW Beetle or Morris Minors. These often set me to thinking about the contrasts between my early motoring experiences and the world of motoring today. The contrasts exist not only between the cars of then and now but also between the general conditions for driving.

My first car was a Jowett 7 (i.e. 7 horse power – describing engine sizes in terms of cubic centimetres or litres was not used except for some very exotic vehicles such as the four litre Bentley). The Jowett engine was a simple two-cylinder affair and was very easy to maintain oneself. This was just as well because motoring was more of a hobby than a means of transport then and self-reliance was the order of the day to keep cars on the road.

Accessories were pretty sparse by any standard – one wiper on the driver's side only, no washer or heater, nothing to keep the rear window clear. Luggage was carried on a rack fixed to the rear bumper as there was no boot. The spare wheel was also fixed to the rear of the car. This meant that if you got a puncture on holiday, you had to remove all of the luggage to get at the spare wheel. The top speed was 55mph with a favourable hill and a following wind!

Despite the basic nature of cars then, we had many miles of enjoyable driving, knowing that if we did break down we could rely on someone else stopping to help. Because there were not many garages around then, we always carried a can of petrol and one of oil – most engines needed topping up with oil every few hundred miles. In contrast, my present car happily goes for 9,000 miles between oil changes.

When I began driving, there were no dual carriageways, no roundabouts, no white lines or catseyes. Traffic lights were being tried out in some places but at most busy junctions in cities, policemen stood in the middle directing traffic. Speed limits were similar to the present day although some were as low as 15 mph in narrow streets. Two policemen with stop-watches operated speed traps. If you were an AA member and an AA patrolman passed you without saluting, this meant that a speed trap was in use.

Parking, which is the bane of our lives today, hardly existed as a problem then. I was living in north-west London and if we fancied going to a show we went up by car. Similarly, in the afternoon to go to a Lyons teashop (tea with a band as my

three year old daughter used to call it) one just parked in a side street, easily and safely.

Looking back like this makes me wonder whether we were better or worse off in those days. I suspect that if you think about it, the “fors” and “against” cancel out.

F Boysen

## LADYBIRDS IMPRESS OFSTED!

On January 29th an inspector from the Office for Standards in Education visited the Ladybird Pre-school. The result was a glowing report that reflects the dedication and support of committee, staff and parents. Every area was marked Good, the highest mark that could be obtained. Some extracts are printed below. The full report is available from the Ladybird Pre-school Office.

*Relationships are excellent. Children are sensitive to one another and aware of other cultures. Behaviour is very good and children are eager to learn. Mathematics experience is good, covering a variety of contexts. Children are developing good spoken and written language skills. Children express themselves through a range of creative experiences. Use of technology, especially information technology, is particularly good.*

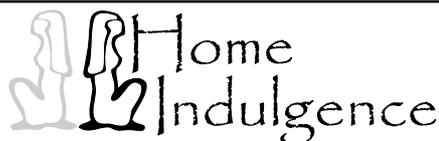
*The quality of teaching is very good. Activities in all curriculum areas are planned at an appropriate developmental level, matching well with the children's abilities. There is a good range of resources in all areas of learning which are regularly reviewed and upgraded. Assessment of children's development is detailed and is used very well to plan activities. The partnership with parents is strong and contributes to the children's progress.*

*Opportunities for children to practise handwriting and correct letter formation could be improved.*

The Ladybird Pre-school follows the school terms and is open 9:00am – 3:00pm every day. Provision is for sessional and day care. Holiday Playdays run during the summer holidays and these are open to any children between the ages of three and four years old (not just those attending the Ladybird Pre-school).

For information on availability of places and Holiday Playdays ring 01954 250891.

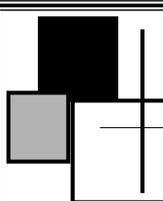
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# COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

We are approaching the Council's new financial year. As ever, much needs to be done as the village grows, but the Council's precept (i.e. the Parish "rate") will remain the same as this year. The Council needs to know what matters to residents, but not everyone wants to put pen to paper. The Annual Parish Meeting will soon be upon us again, and is the occasion when we tell you what we have been up to and you can tell us what you think of it. It is, in fact, the only Parish Council meeting at which members of the public are entitled by law to speak. The meeting will be held in the Lecture Room at the Village College on Thursday 19th April, starting at 8:00 pm.

A number of projects are in the pipeline and work on them may well have started by the time you read this. The County Council will be installing the new speed limits in Histon Road, including two of the very effective flashing signs that warn motorists when they are exceeding the limit. The Highways department has also promised to attend to the confusing road markings at the entrance to Victory Way.

Tree surgeons will be working on the trees on the Village Green. One tree suffered quite severe damage in the recent high winds, and being judged unsafe, has already been felled. Expert advice has been sought, and it appears advisable that another tree is felled, as a precaution. Pruning and thinning work should, however, extend the lives of the other fine trees that surround our Green. It is intended to plant replacement trees to ensure that the character of the Green is preserved.

It was recorded in a previous *Newsletter* that dogs would not be allowed in the recreational area around the Broad Lane pond once the area was included within the "village envelope". This is now the case, and a notice to that effect has been erected at the entrance. However it has been reported to the Council that not everyone is complying. As ever, the Council seeks co-operation rather than confrontation!

Looking ahead, preliminary planning has begun for a village Event to mark the Queen's Jubilee in 2002. First thoughts are that the format could be similar to that used to celebrate the Silver Jubilee 25 years ago. On that occasion, the whole village was involved, and a programme of events catered for all tastes. The Parish Council proposes to provide the basic infrastructure, perhaps including a marquee on the Green as a central feature and venue for specific events, and invites any suggestions for the format and content of the programme. We will particularly welcome participation by national or local Charities or Clubs. As yet, a date has not been fixed, but clearly for such an event, the Summer months are the preferred choice.

## ARTICLES, DATES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

E-mail, PC floppy disk and paper submissions are all welcome. Please contact the Editors if you have any questions. Dates of events to be advertised in the next issue (No. 63) should span the last week of May and the months of June and July.

# EAGER BEAVER (HELPER) NEEDED!

As you are all aware Cottenham is growing, but unfortunately Scouting numbers are falling. Five years ago there were two Beaver Scout Colonies in the village, with only a few boys on the waiting list, now we only have one Colony and the waiting list is growing. We are limited to the amount of boys we can take for safety reasons. Therefore we need more helpers to accommodate those who want to join us.

Beavers is for boys aged between 6-8 yrs, we meet on Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm in term time only at the Scout Centre in Margett Street. Currently we have 18 Beaver Scouts, a leader, an assistant leader, and parents helping on a rota basis.

If you are interested in helping us please contact Paul Rayner (Group Scout Leader) on (01954) 200015.

Each Beaver Scout wrote a piece to put in this newsletter and here is a small selection.

*Badger & Eagle*

*Beaver Scout Leader & Assistant Beaver Scout Leader*

I like Beavers because of crab football, hop skip and jump, rugby, walks around the village, making friends, playing outside, parties, freetime, apple bobbing and sparklers. So come and meet us, mums and dads - come and help us.

*Josh Pearson (6)*

Beavers play games, do floats, walk around the village, play rugby and party. We need more helpers so we can have the biggest beaver colony in England!!! We love it - come and join us. The End!!!!!!!

*George Marino (7)*

Beavers Best Club! We do things - here's some examples: projects with chopsticks, sparklers, games, drinks, learning. So is that OK? Come and help please!

*Alexander Godfrey (6)*



# COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Elections for the County Council – and possibly a General Election – will be held on Thursday 3rd May. Anyone who wishes can now have a postal vote. Certain restrictions still apply for proxy votes. Details and application forms can be obtained by phoning Helen Malkin, Electoral Services Manager, on 01223 443013. Final date for return of applications for the County elections is Wed. 25 April (18 April for changes to an existing postal or proxy vote). Students can use postal/proxy votes. They can vote at home and in their university town in local elections but can only vote in one place in a General Election.

The County Structure Plan which plans for transport, development etc. in Cambridgeshire is being reviewed. A free consultation pack can be obtained by phoning Freephone 0800 243916. Alternatively, consultation can be completed on-line at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

An application has been made to build seven houses on the site of Lack's engineering works at Histon Road. If allowed, the development would be similar to The Rowells off Oakington Road.

The Local Plan Inquiry has heard the objectors' case for developing land to the north and north-west of Oakington Road and bordered by Rampton Road. The Inspector's decision as to whether this and other smaller sites in Cottenham should be allocated for development is not expected until the end of the year at the earliest.

Councillor's Surgery continues to be held on the 3rd Friday of each month (except August) from 5:30pm – 6:30pm in the Communal Room, Franklin Gardens. No appointment is necessary. Alternatively, contact me at 20 Rampton Road, Cottenham Tel 251377.

*Rex Collinson (District Councillor)*

.....  
Over the past twelve months there has been a cascade of instructions from the government on various planning issues, which will have profound effects on the future location of jobs and houses around Cambridge.

First out was Planning Policy Guidance note 3 on Housing. The main aim is to limit car commuting by increasing the supply of affordable homes and encouraging people to live within walking or cycling distance of where they work and do their shopping. It also seeks to avoid concreting over green fields by building on previously developed land and requiring more houses per acre.

Then came the Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia, setting the framework for economic and population growth in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, to 2016. The scale of growth, especially in computing, telecommunications and bio-technology, and the arrival of residents from other parts of the country, has so much outpaced the provision of services, especially roads and fresh-water supply, that the "infrastructure deficit" now amounts to half a billion pounds in transport alone.

South Cambridgeshire District Council had to fight hard to get the expected increase in houses in Cambridgeshire down to 4,000 a year! 70 per cent of these are to be accommodated in what is known as the Cambridge sub-region, which extends from the city to the ring of market towns. In other words, 2,800 new houses each year have to be fitted inside the area bounded by Ely, Newmarket, Haverhill, Saffron Walden, Royston, St Neots, Huntingdon, St Ives, Chatteris. This is more than the highest number of houses built during the peak of the late eighties housing boom and may even exceed the local capacity of the construction industry. The order of preference is to put them in Cambridge, then on the edge of the city, next in a "new settlement close to Cambridge", with other towns and villages at the bottom of the list.

The next stage in working out where to put all these houses is a review of the 1995 Cambridgeshire County Council Structure Plan, which has just started. This will identify in broad terms which towns and villages (if any) can take more estates, and may decide the location of the new settlement (of 6,000 houses). The leading contender is Oakington.

*continued on next page*

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continued from previous page

Finally, South Cambridgeshire District Council will embark on the second review of its 1993 Local Plan, even before the current first review is completed. All subsequent planning applications have to be assessed according to the policies in the development plan, consisting of the Structure Plan and Local Plans taken together.

This is the time in the consultation exercise when your contribution will be most influential, and I would ask as many of you as possible to respond by 6 April. For a copy of the information pack, including a CD-ROM, telephone 0800 243916. Alternatively, visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

For more information come and meet me and Tim Wotherspoon at our regular surgery 5:30 – 6:30pm on the first Friday of the month in the communal room at Franklin Gardens. Other ways of contacting us can be found on the back page.

*Peter Stroude – County Councillor*

Level Playing Field?

The public inquiry into objections to the first review of the Local Plan sat on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd February 2001 to hear the case of two related sites north of Oakington Road and west of Rampton Road. These formal sessions have a thrilling sense of theatre, with all the tension of courtroom drama and witnesses squirming under aggressive cross-examination.

It has to be said that the team of counsel and consultants for the developers far outclassed those appearing on behalf of the district council, as well as outnumbering them four to two. (To be fair, the district council's barrister came across much better prepared on the second day, and in her closing submissions marshalled the evidence against bringing the sites forward in this period (1991 – 2006) far more effectively than her learned friend did the opposite.)

Banner Homes Group plc, which considers itself something of a niche operator, was proposing that a smallish site fronting Oakington Road, as deep as The Rowells, be allocated for 50 dwellings. Furthermore, if the inspector considered this site suitable, better perhaps than others in the dis-

trict, then they asked him to consider extending all the way behind the existing houses on Rampton Road, with a landscape buffer beyond, and bringing another piece of land into play as an associated business park. It was teased out of them that the entire parcel might yield up to 460 houses, generating 3000 additional daily vehicle movements!

In support, the developers relied heavily on a district council study only eight days old that conceded that Cottenham was indeed a sustainable settlement. It was also as close as you could get to Cambridge whilst remaining outside the Green Belt, well catered for in terms of shops and services, and equipped with primary and secondary schools. Public transport was already good and likely to benefit significantly from whatever solution emerged from the A14 transport study.

Against these purported merits, the district council stated that there was little prospect of early relief of existing traffic congestion and no guarantee that the situation would improve in the medium term. It was a residential development on a grand scale that would destroy a large area of best and most versatile agricultural land. Being visible from Rampton bridge it would precipitate encroachment of one settlement on to another. Besides, the district council had just allocated the western half of the Cambridge Northern Fringe (between the city boundary, the A14 and the B1049) for 900 houses and the inspector should therefore be deleting existing allocations in villages instead of adding more. Cottenham really had "done its bit" already to accommodate growth over the past decade.

That infamous phrase "planning gain" was used to describe an offer of about ten acres of extra sports pitches. Much fun was made of the risk of hypothermia to teams on the Recreation Ground the other side of Rampton Road, from exposure to biting cold winds, and about the slope of the ground, the cross-fall being 1 in 60.

So, what defines a level playing field? The answer, apparently, is 1 in 100; about the same as the chance of these sites being given the go-ahead this time!

*Tim Wotherspoon (District Councillor)*



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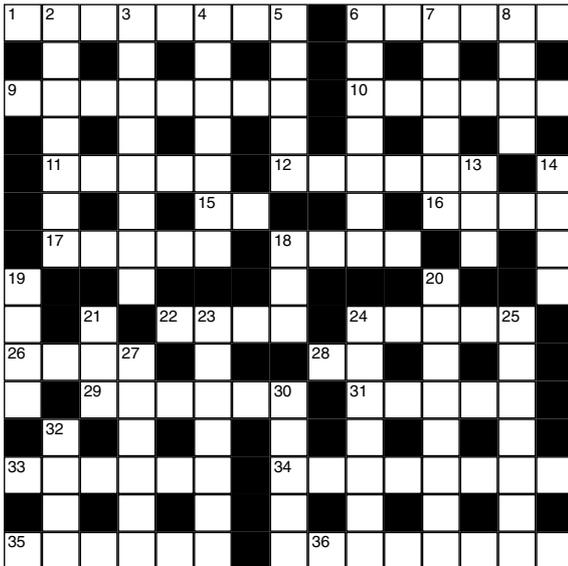
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# Crossword

Compiled by Roger Gautrey



## ACROSS

- 1 Put car in dish to shrink it (8)
- 6 Craig's favourite smokes are roll-ups (6)
- 9 Alloted – animal, spirit and editor (8)
- 10 Disable Noel with bed and breakfast (6)
- 11 One of Disney's stars, perhaps (5)
- 12 Flattened the crimson charge, maybe (6)
- 15 We objectively go to the states (2)
- 16 Gnat settles on barb (4)

- 17 Reveals age of fruits (5)
- 18 Badger animal to test his burrow (4)
- 22 Soft mass is globe without direction (4)
- 24 Sound emitted by Declan Gordon's pipes (5)
- 26 Political grouping of old car manufacturer and backward company (4)
- 28 He seeks confirmation, sometimes (2)
- 29 Pitch of reps chatter (6)
- 31 Say farewell to a French God (5)
- 33 Boa makes Kim put hands on hips (6)
- 35 Loves one so dear (6)
- 36 Idling doctor of divinity is cheating (8)

## DOWN

- 2 Tasteless idi nips around and about (7)
- 3 Unrighteousness when I take unit IQ with an unknown (8)
- 4 Hard rock forms around negative promissary note (7)
- 5 Say hi to disc jockey who has been to Mecca (5)
- 6 Keep company with conservative type perhaps (7)
- 7 Let 'B' go into chalice (6)
- 8 Measure control stick (4)
- 13 By gad' its a New Zealand eccentric (3)
- 14 Remove the elderly from gulag education (4)
- 18 Catch breath when southern body odour is offensive (3)
- 19 Slab for mass of clergymen (4)
- 20 Fail to hold mail for married man with children (8)
- 21 Diminutive professor right out for fashion fanatic (3)
- 23 Charge lots for balms (7)
- 24 Presided over the chacha I redid (7)
- 25 Gourmand Lieutenant with no gut maybe (7)
- 27 The local mermaid, hopefully has less wind (6)
- 30 Fumed when five editors came after the artillery (5)
- 32 Skied without point and lose control

*Answers on inside back cover*

Cambridge Cabinet Makers

# THE BROKEN PATTERN – NEW BUILDINGS IN HISTORIC AREAS

At the annual meeting of the Village Design Group on Tuesday 13th February 2001 Rob Walker, Conservation Manager for South Cambridgeshire District Council, gave a fascinating insight into the challenges we face in trying to integrate good modern design with our architectural heritage. The talk was illustrated by slides depicting examples of successful juxtaposition – or otherwise!

With four district councillors in the packed Lecture Room at the Village College, Mr Walker was at pains to stress that he was presenting a personal view, not official policy. He certainly pulled no punches in challenging the shibboleth of “local distinctiveness”.

The prerequisites of any successful development, whether of an existing structure or of a new building, were an enlightened client, an inspired architect and a skilled builder. If these three elements were present from the start then there would be no need for the intervention of a planning officer, because respect for the site, good design, high quality materials and craftsmanship would combine to make a harmonious contribution to the environment.

The unqualified designer, especially of mass housing, would simply not be countenanced in some other countries. Here it was an uphill struggle to get a scheme designed specially for a particular site. Other factors in contributing to the standardisation of housing estates were stringent building regulations and the increasingly international supply of materials.

If he were to write a design guide he would steer clear of a recipe book. It would have just three rules: (i) employ an architect; (ii) use local materials; (iii) span no roof more than five metres (sixteen feet six inches in old money).

Citing Swaledale as an example of a 100% man-made but wholly attractive environment, Mr Walker spoke passionately about his vision of creating beauty out of land of modest visual quality – of which there was plenty. He attacked the entire basis of the land-use planning system for having elevated quantity above quality. The price of land had been driven up by rationing the supply of allocated sites, forcing developers to cram in as many houses as cheaply as possible.

Disappointment with the resulting dull monotony had, however, led to a budding appreciation of the character of traditional settlements with their strong sense of place. In the Cotswolds, for example, you knew you couldn't be anywhere else. Equivalently, if he had to sum up South Cambridgeshire in one image it would be of a soft-rendered timber frame with low eaves, York sash windows and longstraw thatch roof. However, there was a far lower degree of uniformity across our district, both in its landscape features and in its architecture.

Some attempts to emulate the embrace of a welcoming space had been more successful than others. Mr Walker was particularly critical of “bolt-on” goodies and a tendency towards excessive variety. He wasn't too impressed by pastiche either, unless it was done faithfully down to the last detail. (After showing two slides of a certain “neo-vernacular” project in Cottenham he added that there was no such thing as a problem building, just problem owners!)

All too often we failed to distinguish between sites where evolution was appropriate, for example extensions to churches, and others where revolution was called for instead. Some sites were just crying out for a leap of imagination or a daring adventure. He was also quite sanguine about idiosyncratic details, such as the “millennium bug” recently made in thatch on a listed building at Barrington, or Eric Gill's crocodile carved on a brick wall. In one of the most moving moments of his talk, Mr Walker pointed out that the image of the canopy over the entrance of the recently-listed Impington Village College (designed by Walter Gropius of the Bauhaus) would remain with its students for the rest of their lives.

It was a stimulating and thought-provoking presentation, prompting heated questions afterwards. Mr Walker ended by praising the Village Design Group for having produced not a finite document but an agenda for a continuing process of assessment and evaluation. For further information, contact Mike Smith 251915 smithmichaelstanley@hotmail.com or Liz Cook 251667 cookcott@compuserve.com

## MERTON HALL

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# 24-HOUR FREEPHONE SERVICE FOR SOUTH CAMBS HOUSING TENANTS

Over 6,000 housing tenants in South Cambridgeshire now have access to a 24-hour freephone service for all repair requests, excluding gas heating repairs. The new service is a direct result of recent consultation where 1,500 housing tenants in South Cambridgeshire completed a questionnaire about the Districts Council's housing repair service. This consultation was part of the Authority's Housing Best Value Review, a new government initiative to improve Council services.

The new 24-hour freephone service will provide tenants with information on the work ordered and how long they need to wait for the work to be done. This will be based on the urgency of the job and availability of labour. Tenants will also be sent an acknowledgement card providing a reference number to refer back to and give details of the job and the target date. A Customer Satisfaction card will also be provided for tenants to feed back information on the service they actually receive, which will be used in the service continuous improvement plan. An appointment system has also been introduced so tenants can arrange for someone to call at a convenient time.

Response times will vary according to the job. A 24-hour target will be specified – for example, where there is a total loss of electricity or water. A three-working-day response will

include blocked sinks, loose stair banisters and partial loss of water/electricity.

The new 24-hour freephone number is 0800 0851313. South Cambs also has a 24-hour Rent Payments line on 01223 535001 (this is not a freephone service).

## RAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Position of Clerk

Sadly, our clerk will be leaving us at the end of June 2001. The Parish Council is therefore looking for someone (male or female) to replace her.

**Hours:** approximately 12 per month (to include attendance at Parish Council meetings in the evening on the first Monday of each month (except August)

**Base:** the post requires the clerk to work from home. You will need to be able to accommodate one 4-drawer filing cabinet at home.

**Salary:** In accordance with guidelines received from NALC/CALC for Local Councils

**General:** You will need to be able to take notes and type minutes of meetings that are held. You will deal with the administrative and financial affairs of the Parish Council. Therefore, the ability to communicate well with various people/bodies is necessary, as is the ability to keep up-to-date accounting records and filing.

**Training:** Training for clerks is undertaken by CALC and will be available to the successful applicant.

For further information, please write in the first instance to:

Mr D Mackew  
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# WALK FOR YOUR HEART

The British Heart Foundation is organising a Cambridge Colleges and Country Walk on Sunday the 10th of June 2001. The walk will start between 10:00am and 12:00 noon from the Coton Orchard Garden Centre in Coton.

The walk will cover a six-mile circular route, taking in a pleasant country walk and some of the finest sights of Cambridge colleges. The route has been chosen so that it is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. All walkers will get a certificate and special prizes will be won!

The walk is expected to be a great family and community occasion. If you would like to participate then entry and sponsorship forms are available from Mr Howard Taylor, BHF walk organizer, Tel/Fax: 01954 202857 or from the British Heart Foundation Regional Office Tel: 01763 242414.

## Short Stories & Poetry

Readers are invited to send in either original poetry or short stories for inclusion in *The Newsletter*. Short stories should be no longer than 600 words. The objective should be to entertain the general readership — go on, have a go!

# TOY LIBRARY OPEN FOR NEW MEMBERS NOW

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# CARE NETWORK

Care Network, a local charity based in Comberton, supports groups which aim to help the isolated in rural communities. We are also experienced in managing research projects and publications, ranging from How to set up a Village Scheme to Investigating Local Community Transport Needs.

We have established close links with some excellent researchers in the past, but sometimes they are unavailable. We would be interested to hear from anyone who considers

that they have suitable skills and would like to be considered when the need arises.

*Marion Bailey, Care Network Co-ordinator*  
Tel 01223 263623

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# LETTERS to the Editors

Dear Editors,

A big thank you to the public-spirited lady who picked up all the rubbish in the bus stop near the footpath to the Wimpey houses off the High Street. This bus stop is fairly new. Already it has had its seat damaged and often when I pass I think that I would not like to sit in all the mess if I were going to wait for a bus. So again, a big thank you to the anonymous woman cyclist whom I saw clear it up on Sunday January 28th.

Brenda Ward

.....

## Thank you to the CUSSC

At the end of 1999, the Mobile Warden Scheme was surprised and delighted to receive a donation of £347.50 from a charity night organised by Mr Thoday of the Cambridge University Sports and Social Club.

The donation came as a complete and most welcome surprise to everyone associated with the scheme. We have been operating since April 1997 and the Warden has been of value to many elderly residents and their families. A salary is paid to the Warden and the scheme is largely dependent on the support of the parish council and the South Cambs. Social Services for its continued existence. As readers of this publication will know, there are many demands made on shrinking local government budgets, and although we are very cost-effective, ventures like the Mobile Warden Scheme have to demonstrate that they are needed and valuable to the communities in which they operate.

The kindness and generosity of the CUSSC shows us that the Scheme and its Warden are appreciated in Cottenham and that this village cares for and supports its elderly residents. Thank you.

Denise Peck, Sue Gilkison  
On behalf of Cottenham Mobile Warden Scheme.

Across  
1 Diminish, 6 Cigars, 9 Assigned, 10 Noble,  
11 Pluto, 12 Ironed, 15 US, 16 Tang, 17 Dates,  
18 Sett, 22 Glob, 24 Clang, 26 Bloc, 28 Eh,  
19 Patter, 31 Adieu, 33 Akimbo, 34 Varmints,  
35 Adores, 36 Diddling  
Down  
2 Inspid, 3 Inquiry, 4 Igneous, 5 Hadji, 6 Consort  
7 Goblet, 8 Rule, 13 Dag, 14 Aged, 18 Sob  
19 Albs, 20 Familial, 21 Fop, 23 Lotions,  
24 Chaired, 25 Glutton, 27 Calmer, 30 Raved  
32 Skid

— Crossword answers —

## WATCHING BRIEF

Dear Eddie the Editor

As you know, I have been talking for some while of putting Watchman into retirement. It's a time-consuming business producing a regular column (unpaid, of course) and I need more time to devote to other projects.

The column has been a regular feature of the *Newsletter* since 1998. Its purpose has always been to entertain readers with an oblique view of local life. And it's gratifying to know that so many readers have enjoyed the spirit in which Watchman's observations have been presented.

However, it's unfortunate that the decision to retire has been soured by the appearance of that silly little poster seen around the village, which seeks to impress, presumably, by serial abuse of the exclamation mark.

But that is by-the-by. Nothing changes Watchman's decision to extinguish the dying embers of the brazier, lock up the draughty old hut for the last time and move on.

We've certainly had some jolly laughs along the way, as well as lobbing a few hand-grenades. But far from being purely critical, much of the column has been devoted to praising our unique local businesses, commending changes which enhance our environment and encouraging what is visibly good about our village. Indeed, Watchman has been nothing if not even-handed in his comments, always ready to applaud as well as to scold.

But now it's time for Watchman to hang up the hurricane lamp and say so-long to all your good readers.

*So fill to me the parting glass  
Goodnight, and joy be to you all*

**Watchman**

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.

### ADVERTISING RATES

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**Contact Peter Robertson on  
01954 200080**

# 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, 10.00 am - 4.00 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       |
| Cottenham Toy Library.....    | Carol Grange.....   | 251528       |
| Dentist.....                  | Mr. Faber, Old Telephone Exchange, 40 Margett Street.....               | 251696       |
| Chemist.....                  | Cooperative Pharmacy Cottenham, 222 High Street.....                    | 250556       |
| Chiroprapist.....             | 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       |
| Under Ones Group.....         |   | 250609       |
| Pre-School.....               | Ladybirds Pre-School, Recreation Ground.....                            | 250891       |
| Out of School Club.....       |   | 250025       |
| Council Offices.....          | South Cambs. District Council.....                                      | 01223 443000 |
|                               | Cambridgeshire County Council.....                                      | 01223 717111 |
| Parish Council.....           | Clerk - P.J. Sanderson, 37 Broad Lane.....                              | 250836       |
| District Councillors.....     | Rex Collinson, 20 Rampton Road. e-mail: rex@rcollinson.fsnet.co.uk..... | 251377       |
|                               | Tim Wotherspoon, 135 High Street. e-mail: timwothers@aol.com.....       | 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.....          | Histon Team.....  | 01223 264466 |
| Mobile Warden Service.....    |   | 251182       |
| 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.....                     | Panther Taxis.....  | 01223 441616 |
| Library.....                  | Margett Street.....   | 273322       |
| Library Doorstep Service..... | Hilary Firth.....   | 01223 715715 |
| Parish Church.....            | The Rev'd. Ian Friars, The Rectory, 6 High Street.....                  | 250454       |
| Baptist Church.....           | Mr Paul Shepherd (Church Secretary) 5 Corbett Street.....               | 200038       |
| Methodist Church.....         | The Rev'd. Cynthia Hardiman, Wesley House, 250 High Street.....         | 250242       |
| Salvation Army.....           | Cpts. Ken and Jill Bartlett, 15 Pelham Close.....                       | 250524       |

**EDITOR:** Eddie Murphy, 53 Margett Street, Cottenham, Tel: 01954 251700  
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