

# COTTENHAM RESPONDS!

**I**t has been a busy month. The response to the cover story on the problems faced by Cottenham Post Office was tremendous. I met James Paice with Kim Holland the postmistress, a few days after the *Newsletter* began to be distributed. By then, James had received more than 30 letters and I reckon that the *Newsletter* had only been distributed to less than half the village by then. The final number he received will have been much higher.

He has taken up the case of why Cottenham Post Office is not allowed to offer vehicle registration with the relevant authorities in London. This will be a long drawn out process, so we must not expect the situation to be resolved very quickly. However, should he need a deluge of letters to focus the minds of officials in the Post Office or in the Civil Service, then he can call on the services of the people of Cottenham to ensure that minds are focussed!

## Map Returns

Last year we published a map of the village – useful, we thought, for newcomers to the village and for established villagers to see the layout of the new housing estates. Feedback is that it was regarded as useful and so in this issue we re-issue the map in improved format and with some landmarks other than street names added.

## Farewells

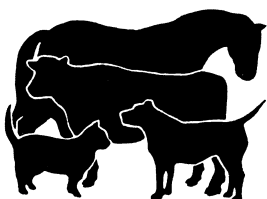
The period covered by this issue of the *Newsletter* marks the moving on of two enormous contributors to the life of the village. The Reverend Ian Friars is moving on to a new parish in Suffolk, having served the parish of Cottenham for the last eight years. His move is to happen fairly shortly in June – a note of farewell from Ian is included inside.

The other major contributor to the village who is moving on is Paul Stone, headmaster of the primary school. Paul has led the school from the front for the last 18 years and ensured that it has reached the highest standards academically and also created a warm environment in which our children develop socially. Many of you will remember the glowing Ofsted report on the primary school last Autumn which praised the leadership of Paul Stone for the excellence of the school. Paul's successor will be Mrs Jan Wright who has spent the last 10 years as head of Holywell Primary School.

We wish both Ian and Paul all the best for the future.

*Eddie Murphy*

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# VILLAGE DIARY

## May

- 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

## June

- 2nd Salvation Army Jumble Sale, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am  
 5th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting, Cottenham Village College, 7:30pm  
 7th Cottenham Toy Library, Regular Session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm  
 9th Usual Suspects, Gypsy Jazz, Cottenham Village College, 8:00pm  
 10th Cottenham Brass Band Public Performance, Village Green 3:30pm – 4:30pm  
 13th Cottenham WI, Talk from Roger Dawe (topic a surprise), Franklin Gardens Community Centre, 7:30pm  
 14th Salvation Army Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – noon  
 15th Cottenham Seniors Club, Garden Party hosted by Mr Bill Fiddian, 10 Margett Street, Cottenham, 2:30pm  
 20th Early Morning Walk, Swim and Breakfast, Cottenham Village College, 5:30am  
 21st Cottenham Toy Library, Regular Session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm  
 28th Salvation Army Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – noon

## July

- 5th Cottenham Toy Library, Regular Session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm  
 7th Salvation Army Jumble Sale, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am  
 12th Salvation Army Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – noon  
 15th Cottenham WI, Summer evening buffet, Franklin Gardens Community Centre, 7:30pm  
 17th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting, Cottenham Village College, 7:30pm  
 19th Cottenham Toy Library, Regular Session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm  
 20th Cottenham Seniors Club, Garden Party hosted by Mrs Margret Brierly, 14 Telegraph Street Cottenham, 2:30pm  
 26th Salvation Army Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – noon

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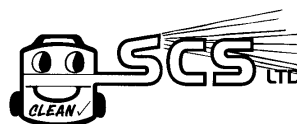
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Cottenham fire station is short of personnel and maintaining a sufficient crew at all times to man the fire engine is becoming very difficult. We are therefore looking for men and women to become part of this special team within Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue.

Perhaps you can help. You may be an engineer, office or home worker or full time parent – whatever your current occupation we can offer you the opportunity to serve as a community firefighter and fulfil your existing commitments. By doing this you would be making a real contribution to Cottenham and the community.

The personnel at Cottenham Fire Station are committed to equality and fairness and welcome applications from all sections of the community. If you think you might be interested you will need:

- to be aged 18 or over on entry to the fire service.
- to live or work in Cottenham (or within 5 minutes of the station).
- to be available to be on call around the clock.
- to be free to attend drill nights – 7:00pm–9:00pm on Mondays.
- to be physically fit with good eyesight and hearing without artificial aids.
- not to have a fear of heights or working in confined spaces.

All community firefighters are paid a retaining fee and a turnout fee; fully qualified earnings can be up to £10,000 a year.

If you are interested and want to get more information please call in at the station on the High Street or call 01954 250331 on Monday night and ask for Brian Yorke, or telephone Moria Chambers on 01480 4443536 during office hours.

*Grant Miller*

# BIRD REPORT

March and April have been wet and cold and we seem to have missed out on spring this year. But for many birds it has been business as usual, although a little later than usual.

By the end of March there were chiffchaffs calling in our garden and they have been heard almost daily since then. We also have green woodpeckers nesting in an old plum tree and blue tits in a nesting box. Our other nesting box has had the hole enlarged, presumably by a woodpecker. At the end of March we had a pair of lesser spotted woodpeckers in a tree near the box and we hoped they were planning to move in, but this hasn't happened.

We visited Milton Country Park on April 16th and saw chiffchaffs, willow warblers, blackcaps and house martins. According to the ranger there were also sand martins, swallows and nightingales. Yellow wagtails have been seen at Fen Drayton and a few solitary swallows in mid-April over Cottenham.

Once again the Long Drove lagoon has provided a good deal of interest – shelduck, gadwall, teal, shoveler, redshank and the occasional little grebe.

Other interesting sightings have been a green woodpecker on the village green and a peregrine falcon being mobbed by falcons over Broad Lane. While much regretting the footpath ban, I shall be interested to see if it has made any difference to birds who must be enjoying a bit of peace and quiet.

*Jasper Kay*

## All Saints' Church – Summer Fete at Mitchell House, 185 High Street

(by kind permission of Nigel Bolitho, Esq.).

Saturday, 16th June  
from 2:00pm – 4:30pm.

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# NEWS FROM THE FEN EDGE PATCH

## The Usual Suspects

The summer Arts programme, supported by Fen Edge Community Association, comes to an end with a lively event on Saturday June 9th. This will be an evening with 'The Usual Suspects', combining Gipsy Jazz with classics from the 20s and 30s alongside original material. The evening will have a French flavour, French music, French food; bring your own wine (French?) and glasses. Held in the new church hall, Cottenham from 8:00pm, this is sure to be a popular evening. Tickets are limited, so book soon. £7.50 [£6.00 concessions]: Cottenham Village College 01954 288944

On Wednesday June 20 there will be an early Morning Walk followed by swim at the Village College and breakfast. Meet (all being well) at 5:30am at the Broad Lane bridge. If the footpath ban is still in force, meet at the Village College. If in doubt, check at the College or through Jasper Kay on 01954 250485. Breakfast must be booked with Jasper by Sunda, June 17th please!

## Summer School

If you don't know about our Summer School, then now is the time to find out more. For the past six years, we have held an increasingly diverse range of courses at Cottenham Village College, with the aim of providing top quality tuition in a pleasantly informal atmosphere. This year courses will run from August 6th to 10th. Many of the courses are art and craft based: screenprinting, stained glass, jewellery, tapestry weaving; others include music, food, military aviation, T'ai Chi, yoga, and computer skills. 'Discovering Cottenham' – a new course of particular interest to local residents will be led by Mac Dowdy. Although courses are aimed at adults, teenagers can also be accepted. Course lengths vary from one to five days. Anyone can join in the walking group, for the odd day, at a cost of £3.00.

Even if you are not interested yourself, you might have a friend or relative who would really enjoy this 'holiday with a difference', so tell them about it. But hurry, some courses are already fully booked, and others have only a few spaces. Cottenham Village College 01954 288944.

## Pond Dipping

The pond at the Village College offers an excellent site for pond dipping. It is safe and easy to organise a group visit with young children. We provide enough equipment for individual families, or for groups of 20 children – nets, trays and identification charts. So if you are looking for a fun activity during term time or the holidays, please contact the Community Office, Cottenham Village College 01954 288944

## Summer Holiday Children's Carousel

Cottenham Village College, in conjunction with South Cambs. Arts Unit and The Junction, will be hosting summer holiday arts events for children. This will be a wonderful opportunity to take part in high quality arts activities, at a reasonable price, since it is sponsored by the above bodies. The programme will run during the first three weeks of the holidays and will include:

- DJ workshop, for 12–16 year olds
- A drama week for children with the Tollhouse Theatre
- Circus workshop for primary children

Watch out for details, or enquire at Cottenham Village College 01954 288944.

## 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. 64) should span the last week of July and the months of August and September.

## 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!

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# COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Although the attendance at the annual Parish meeting was again disappointing, residents raised a number of issues, many of which had been covered at Council meetings and before in these pages.

Highway matters of one kind or another were behind several of the comments made by residents. The unsatisfactory situation at the Victory Way/Lambs Lane junction needs a permanent solution. The hope is that the Highways Department of the County Council will be able to find sufficient funds to widen the roads on both sides of the island, thereby allowing two-way traffic on each side. The Histon Road speed reduction works have been started, and according to the Chairman, will include two "flashers" to remind drivers of the speed limits! We can only hope they will have the desired effect! It seems that the bid for funding to enable a similar project for Rampton Road had failed because the design submitted (not by the Parish Council, but by the County Council's "experts") was too expensive. Perhaps an alternative can be developed with more chance of success. The generally poor road surfaces throughout the village were commented on by several of those present. Coun. Peter Stroude (County Councillor) expressed regret that the County Council was short of funds for highway maintenance, but promised that the work rate would improve with better weather conditions.

The ongoing saga of fly tipping in the Fens continues. Although the District Council regularly clears up the mess, this is costing the taxpayer thousands of pounds each time it is done. The District Council will be taking up this matter with the Environment Agency to try to identify and prosecute those responsible.

Some dog owners have objected to the Council's notice banning dogs from the recreation area in Broad Lane, and its legality was questioned at the meeting. Although no specific by-law has been passed, the Council has been advised that it is within its rights to erect the sign, and as ever we look for residents' co-operation rather than confrontation. A by-law could be voted if found to be necessary. Although the fouling of footpaths has improved significantly since the provision of Dog Bins, the loss of access to footpaths due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic has put even more pressure on dog

owners, and we can only plead for their understanding. If that is not forthcoming, residents should be aware that one successful prosecution has already been brought, and that this remains an available option if people are unwilling to observe the law.

A reason was sought for the Council's decision to contribute to the repair of the clock on the Methodist chapel. It was explained that the Council considers the clock to be a service to the community, and as such was keen to see it working again after several years out of action.

In conclusion, perhaps we should congratulate ourselves that we are doing such a wonderful job! After all, only 8 people out of nearly 5000 felt strongly enough to come along and have a moan at us! The Parish Council's powers and funds are very limited compared to the District and County Councils, but we do what we can to improve the quality of life in Cottenham. It seems a pity that the vast majority of the community is not inclined to get involved in this process - ultimately, you only get out what you put in! However a couple of those who did turn up were kind enough to express their appreciation of the Council's efforts, and every little helps! Please remember that members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings; dates are displayed on the Parish notice boards and published in this *Newsletter*.

## REMEMBER

*The Cottenham Newsletter* is your newsletter. We welcome contributions on any subject from all Cottenham residents, or those with something to say to the people of Cottenham.

If you have been thinking of submitting something, but keep putting it off, hesitate no longer, we would love to hear from you.

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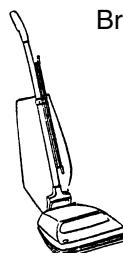
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# COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

## Local elections – revised date for postal vote applications

Because of the widespread outbreak of foot and mouth disease, the local elections (for the County Council this year) have been postponed until 7th June. As a result, the last date by which applications for postal or proxy votes have to reach the Electoral Services Manager at South Cambs Hall, 9-11 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1PB has been put back to 30th May.

Applications to change an existing postal or proxy vote have to be in by 22nd May. As a general election has been called for 7th June, these dates will apply for that also. Application forms for postal or proxy votes can be obtained by writing to the Electoral Services Manager at the above address or by telephoning 01223 443013. You can also phone this number if you have any other queries about electoral matters.

There are no District Council elections this year.

## Broken Glass and the Refuse Collection

The weekly Refuse Collection, normally on a Friday in Cottenham, will collect moderate amounts of household broken glass provided it is properly wrapped, packaged and labelled. It should be wrapped in several sheets of newspaper and put out beside your refuse sacks in a separate box clearly labelled Broken Glass. If you experience any problem about getting it collected, phone the Council's Commercial Services Department on 01223 235468.

The Refuse Collection is not suitable for dealing with large amounts of glass or large pieces of glass such as broken window panes. If you can, take these to the tip at Butt Lane, Milton or seek advice on the above telephone number. The Green Box collection on alternate Wednesdays does not collect glass or bottles. If possible, take your bottles to a bottle bank. The nearest one for Cottenham residents is outside Rampton Village Hall.

Always spare a thought for your refuse collectors – and make sure that you don't put unwrapped sharp or dangerous objects in your refuse sacks.

## New way of running the Council

The May Council Meeting sees the start of the new way of running the Council required by the recent Local Government Act. Consultation with a representative sample of voters together with numerous local organisations produced overwhelming support for the Leader and Cabinet option, so the Council will now be run by a Leader and seven 'cabinet' members elected by the Council. Together they will be responsible for running the Council and its services. Individual cabinet members will be responsible for such things as Information and Customer Services, Planning and Economic Development, Housing and Environmental Health to name but a few. Their work will be monitored by Select Committees which will be able to scrutinize proposals and decisions and call individual cabinet members to account. There will still be separate committees to deal with planning and licensing applications.

Local councillors will continue to be able to take up residents' concerns as previously so, if you have a problem about the Council or its services, don't hesitate to get in touch – either at home or at my monthly 'surgery' on the 3rd Friday of the month in the community room at Franklin Gardens from 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

*Rex Collinson*

*continued on next page*



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*continued from previous page*

### Phone Masts

The saga of one 2 one has concluded with two recent planning permissions. One gives consent for installation of a 15 metre monopole for one 2 one tucked into the corner of a field next to the poultry farm off Broad Lane on the far side of the Cut. The other replaces the 25 metre monopole built by Orange south of Beach Road by a 25 metre lattice tower, to be shared with one 2 one and BT Cellnet. (Vodafone already operates from an aerial in the Fire Station compound.) The proposed equipment meets the needs of all four current operators "for the foreseeable future". This leaves Hutchison 3G to be accommodated somewhere and I hope we will reach an equally satisfactory agreement.

### Biodiversity

Those who know me well will be aware that my dedication to recycling borders on the excessive! But if sustainability means living off the earth's income rather than running down its capital then economic growth can be interpreted as increasing return on the world's resources. I believe in using raw materials more efficiently and ensuring future supplies or equivalent substitutes.

Conservation issues have secured a high profile in the new political structure of the district council that comes into effect at the end of May. Policy on listed buildings and conservation areas, as well as the wealth of wildlife, comes within the portfolio of the leader of the council! In addition, one single select committee is to have scrutiny of both refuse collection and protection of the natural and historic environment. It is heartening to report that this committee has proved the most popular, with 19 councillors seeking 12 places.

### The future of agriculture

I attended a seminar in London at which the chief scientist of MAFF and the president of the NFU were among the speakers. Two months into the foot and mouth crisis, Ben Gill was clearly exhausted, but despite being hoarse he made a passionate plea for attracting new entrants into farming.

Another of the speakers had been responsible for setting up UKROFS, the organic food standards body. He emphasised

that the label "organic" referred only to production methods, with no bearing whatever on nutritional quality. Since so much "organic" food is imported, consumers ought to ask themselves whether they can trust overseas regulators to be as scrupulous as our own. On the other hand there is clearly plenty of scope for this country's farmers to benefit from the growing fashion for "organic" produce.

The Countryside Agency has been running a campaign called "Eat the view". This refers to the invaluable contribution agriculture makes to the beauty of the landscape, and buying local food is one of the most effective ways we can pay for the service. Security is still another major issue. We might no longer need to worry so much about torpedoes sinking Atlantic convoys, but the reassurance of knowing who grows what goes into our stomachs should not be given up lightly.

### Monthly surgery

Your County Councillor Peter Stroude and I are available for consultation between 5:30pm and 6:30pm on the first Friday of every month in the Communal Room at Franklin Gardens. Other ways of contacting us can be found on the back page.

*Tim Wotherspoon*

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# REFLECTIONS

— by Moyra A Borg

It is now late Spring and life proceeds, but where is it leading me? I do not know. I enjoy being alive and delight in taking in everything I see. It is nearly four years since my brain haemorrhage. 'Are you completely better now?' people ask, very kindly and expecting a 'Yes thank you!' reply. Had I broken a leg four years ago, when asked the same question I suppose I could say that it was OK most of the time but occasionally twinged if the weather was rainy or something like that. How do you describe any 'injury' to your head though? Do you say 'Well I am normal most of the time but occasionally I go a little doolally.'? Your perception of yourself actually comes from what you think and what you think comes from your brain and as it is your brain which has been affected how do you trust your own judgement? I am honest with other people and with myself too, so I can say that I know that I am not the same person I was before the brain haemorrhage.

How have I changed then since 18th June 1997? Well, firstly I get so very, very tired, that every day I have to sleep in the afternoon – though often I am only actually asleep for about 15 minutes. This restores me beyond belief. Without my siesta I am shattered and cannot think straight. I would say that if I had just run a marathon, my legs would be tired and I would not be able to use them again properly until I had had a good rest. Well exactly the same thing happens with my head. People think that if there is something wrong with your brain, then you must have a mental rather than a physical problem. The brain is actually a physical organ though and when it gets desperately tired, it almost ceases to work. It is very frightening when this happens – but I have learned that if I have a sleep I will wake up feeling very refreshed. I have been so tired that I have been unable to recognise people I know very well when I am not tired. My brain will muddle up two people whom I know – usually they look alike or dress similarly and may even have the same Christian name – and then I have to ask the person I am talking to their name. They sometimes feel uneasy and look at me as though I am weird (well I know I am weird!). At

times like this I feel as though over 70 percent of my brain is a mush of cotton wool and I am struggling to cope with only having the remaining 30 percent to work with. I can manage like this – but only just. Sleep really does revive me – though some mornings I wake up not feeling very revived at all brain wise.

Secondly, I always felt that my brain was very active and sharp and I used to be capable of thinking of one thing and perhaps talking about another. Immediately after the brain haemorrhage and for quite a while afterwards I couldn't do that. I could only think of one thing at a time. I felt so stupid!! – as though I would never feel normal again and that terrified me. Over the years though that ability has come back without me noticing.

Thirdly, my memory completely deserts me now when my head is tired. I tell people the same thing twice and they complain and say 'You have already told me that a few minutes ago!' That is also embarrassing – because people who have not suffered any memory loss themselves think that I am being stupid and a pain in the London (Derry Aire)!! When I absolutely must not forget something I write a letter or two on my left hand to remind me. I am not a stupid person so I feel angry that my memory is so hopeless at times.

To tell the truth though – sitting here now writing this, I am aware that my brain feels different to what it did before. I think that when a part of someone's brain is damaged in any way, then other parts start to work and do things that they did not do before to make up for the part which can't work as it should. The effort of all this makes one's brain tired, very tired, quite quickly and that is what is noticeable to me – though other people are not aware of the things that they cannot see.

I think that confidence is something which can pull us through a lot of things and I think happiness pulls us through too. I still feel so lucky to be alive that these are just minor hitches to me and I let people's comments just slide, like water off a duck's back. So there you are you see – that is one advantage to being aged 39!



**PET &**



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**ANIMAL FEEDS**





# COTTENHAM ENVIRONMENT AUDIT

**VILLAGE DESIGN GROUP / FOOTPATH GROUP / WILDLIFE GROUP**

## The good news

The Cottenham Environment Audit Group's application to the Local Heritage Initiative Grant scheme has succeeded and we have confirmation of a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Countryside Agency – which means that we have the major part of the funds needed to carry out the project as planned.

You have probably heard about the Cottenham Environment Audit, initiated jointly by the Village Design Group, the Footpath Group and the Wildlife Group. The first stage is a survey of the plant and wildlife of all the boundaries in the parish. This will lead on to a variety other activities which provide different ways for people to get involved and interested in the countryside around the village, and how it is changing.

## The bad news

Along with so many people's plans just now, the Boundaries Survey together with the training days for volunteer surveyors, have had to be postponed owing to the foot and mouth crisis. Watch this space for notice of when we can get the Survey going again – and in the meantime we are just as keen to hear from anyone who is interested in the project – please contact Peter Pilbeam on Cottenham 251544 or Andrew Withers on Cottenham 252173 for more details.

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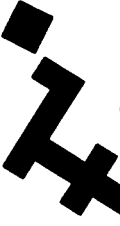
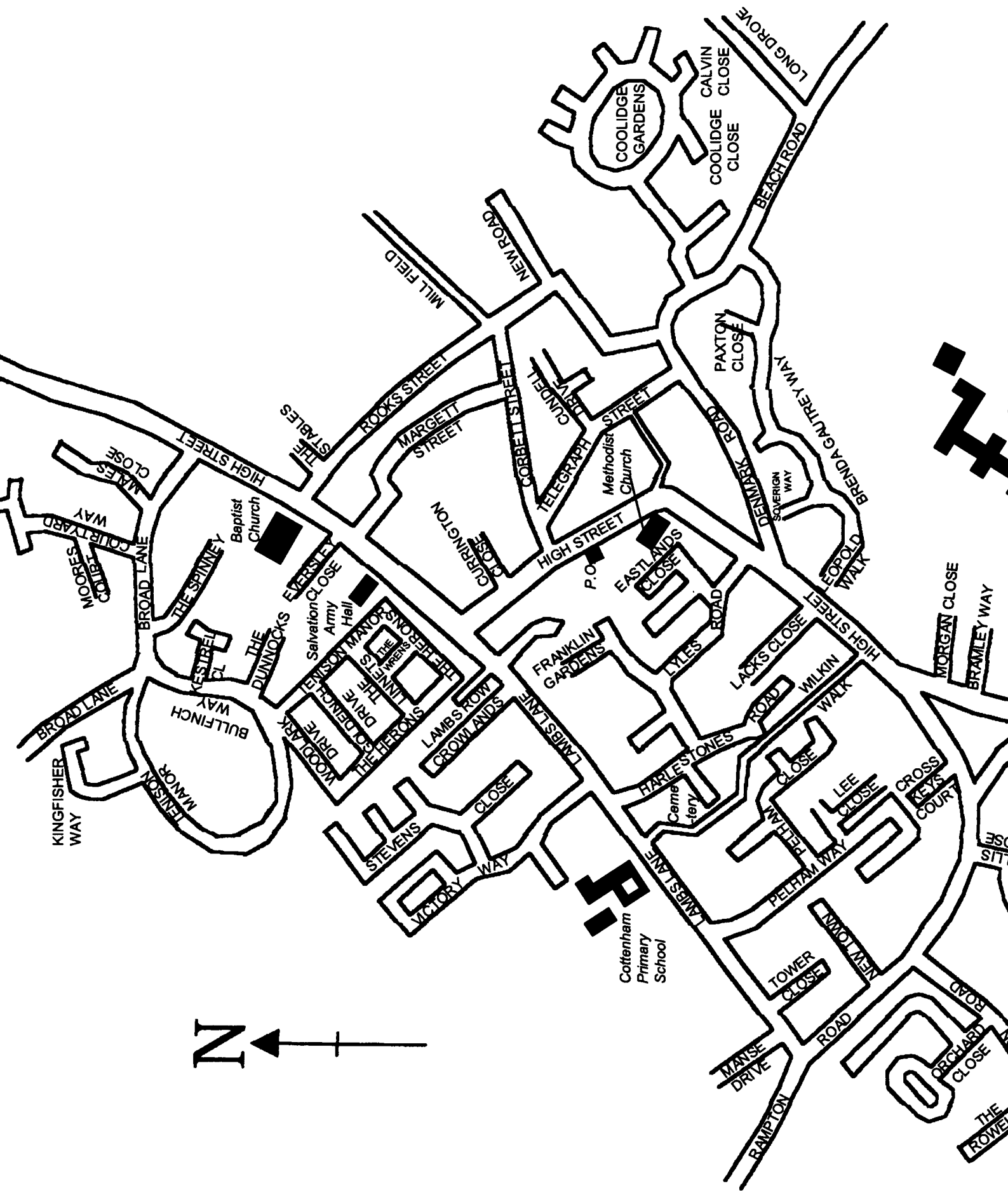
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# ART IN HADDENHAM

**'TRASH'** June 16th – July 1st

Why discard unwanted items? Why not rehash your trash? Haddenham Studios and Gallery will show you how to be creative with your rubbish.

'TRASH' is a selling exhibition of work by artists who recycle materials to create sculptures, jewellery and textiles.

Eve Cordor, Roland Prime, Matthew Laine Sanderson and Hugh Topping work in metal, using household items and scrap metal. Ros Ingram uses combinations of everyday items, such as cheese graters and teacups, together with porcelain to create hanging fish. Edwina Bridgeman works with broken china, scraps of metal and driftwood. Her work is figurative, and many of the pieces are narrative, setting the scene for a story. Paul Rowley sculptures are from waste plastic, bottles and packaging.

Rose Verney uses mixed media and scraps of fabric to make anything from rugs to wall hangings. Gina Keene makes cushions from old pullovers.

Renee Spierdijk creates her dramatic and colourful jewellery from bottle tops, old beads, buttons and glass, while Alison Dane's earrings from rolled paper and painted plastic are beautifully delicate. In contrast, environmental artist Anne Rivington produces sculptures and wall hangings using natural materials.

## An Open Day for all the Family.

On Sunday 1st July, there will be an opportunity for all the family to be creative with recycled materials. Matthew Laine Sanderson, Rose Verney, Paul Rowley and Renee Spierdijk will be running workshops in the Gallery.

Nick King will arrive in the 'Recycling Bus' and children will be able to make a variety of exciting models under his guidance.

Sessions will be from 10:00am – 12:30pm and 1:30pm – 4:00pm. Adults £5, children £3 per session. Places are limited so booking is essential. (01353 749188)

These workshops are supported by grants from AdeC, LA21 (East Cambs District Council) and Awards for All.

Despite the fact that 'Haddenham Blossoms and Bygones' is not taking place this year, Haddenham Studios and Gallery have planned some exciting events for Sunday 13th May which are linked to the spring exhibition, 'Inside Out – Outside In'. Environmental artist Martha Winter will create an outside sculpture. She will interact with visitors as they arrive.

Inside the Gallery, Lisa Le Brocq will be showing her range of jewellery and demonstrating her jewellery-making techniques using different metals such as silver, gold, copper, brass and stainless steel. She uses texture and various polishing techniques to create different effects.

Valerie Armstrong will be showing her prints and paintings. She also produces painted screens and is an expert in paint finishes. To demonstrate these, she will be painting a mural.

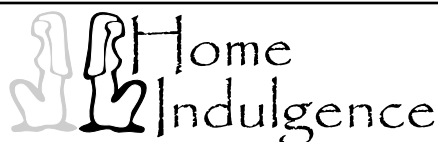
Haddenham Studios and Gallery, 20 High Street, Haddenham. Tel: 01353 749188. An Open Day for all the Family, Sunday 13th May 10:00am – 5:00pm.

## COULD YOU BE A "GOOD SAMARITAN" ?

For the past 40 years, the Cambridge Branch of the Samaritans have been providing confidential emotional support, 24 hours a day, for the people of Cottenham and the rest of the Cambridge District. Anyone who is experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide, can contact them on 01223 364455.

However, in order to continue to provide this service, the Samaritans are in need of more volunteers. So, if you are open-minded and compassionate and are good at listening to others – without giving advice – then they would like to hear from you.

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# FAREWELL FROM REV. IAN FRIARS

After eight years in Cottenham and thirteen in Cambridgeshire, Jennie and I are leaving the village. My last service here will be at 10:30am on Pentecost Sunday 3rd June. Following much prayer and deliberation, I have accepted the offer to become Rector of the Parishes of Long Melford, Alpheton and Shimpling in Suffolk. I am to be licensed in Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford on Friday, July 13th at 7:30pm, to which everyone is welcome.

It will be a very different ministry from Cottenham as there are two churches in Long Melford itself with a further two having recently been added to the living. There are concerts every week in Holy Trinity Church from May to September and literally thousands of visitors throughout the year to this ancient wool church. It was recently rated in Simon Jenkins' book of 'England's Thousand Best Churches' as among the most beautiful churches in the whole country. At the other extreme, though both gems in themselves, Alpheton and Shimpling Churches are set in very rural settings away from their village centres, the former still lit by oil lamps. All are well worth a visit if you are ever in the area.

However, it is the people, worship and ministry that I am moving for – and there is a big challenge to face ahead. Your prayers would be much in order for us as Jennie and I will certainly hold you and this village in our prayers as my successor is sought. This is likely to take several months.

Should you need to contact the Parish Church to enquire about baptisms, weddings, or any other matter after my departure, please phone the Parish Office number (01954 251137) from which you will be guided as to the appropriate number to telephone.

Of course in a community of this size, there are many residents I have not come to know over these past eight years but thankfully there are many more that I have done. Thank you for your friendship and the support of my ministry here. May this village continue to prosper and the people grow ever closer in care and concern for one another.

*Your friend in Christ, Ian Friars*

# COURT ORDURE

**It has happened at last! Finally, after all of the threats and warnings from the district and parish councils and direct appeals from residents – someone has been prosecuted for dog fouling on Corbett Street. The identity of the person was not revealed but she received a hefty fine and had costs awarded against her.**

I think that many residents of Cottenham have little or no idea what a problem dog fouling is on many of our streets. Streets off the High Street often form the discreet part of a walk of perfect length to give a dog a little exercise before depositing a pile of filth on the pavement. Once deposited, it waits to be stepped in and walked into peoples' houses.

The problem has been bad for as long as I have lived in the village. With restrictions on use of footpaths caused by foot and mouth disease, it has become even worse lately. The council has provided a bin for depositing dog waste on a number of streets. I assume that it is used by some people – I do see people scooping up the dog mess in plastic bags. However, it is perhaps too much to expect those ignorant and anti-social few who allow their dogs to foul our streets night after night (because it usually happens at night) to use these facilities.

For those who walk their dogs around our streets and clean up the mess they make, I say thank you. To those who leave the mess behind I say either get rid of your dog, or walk it outside the village. If you continue with your disgusting habits then you will be caught and fined.

Residents in Margett Street and Corbett Street have begun a surveillance operation involving the use of video cameras and spot checks. It was their action which resulted in the successful prosecution mentioned above. You have been warned.

*Eddie Murphy*

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# FRAUD ABOUT

We have had a number of occurrences recently of a disturbing new trend in the village – that of young children and teenagers using deception to get money from unsuspecting passers-by and householders. One is reported in the letters page of this *Newsletter* – a case of a young boy (or boys) asking for 20p to phone home. Our correspondent fell for this one.

More disturbingly, there have been several cases of teenagers (male and female) asking in the streets and calling at homes, claiming to be collecting for the local scout group. We checked with Paul Rayner of Cottenham Scouts and he said that no such collection was underway. In fact this type of collection, namely collection by teenagers unsupervised by an adult, is now prohibited by the scout movement – hence the demise of the bob-a-job fundraising campaigns of times past.

If you are approached in either of these ways, then our advice would be not to part with your cash. If you think that your children may possibly be involved in these incidents then please warn them that this is a serious matter and the police will become involved if it doesn't stop.

*Eddie Murphy*

# HEALTHWATCH

with David Bradley


Research at Cambridge University could offer hope to the victims of spinal injuries of finding a way to reconnect severed nerves, although the scientists reckon human trials are still many years away.

A cure for paralysis has always seemed an impossible dream for people involved in accidents that result in damage to the spinal cord. Regaining feeling and movement would require regeneration of nerves that cross the site of the injury. The insurmountable obstacle that has blocked the way to patients regaining feeling is that scarring in the damaged area induces the body to produce proteins to stop the growth of nerve tissue.

James Fawcett and colleagues in the Physiological Laboratory at Cambridge have reported how a type of sugar molecule – technically a chondroitin sulphate molecule – coats the proteins formed during scarring. In laboratory tests, they found that an enzyme known as chondroitinase ABC could snip off the sugary molecules from the surface of the proteins. Unfettered by their cargo, the proteins did not block the passage of nerve cells growing through the scar tissue. Intriguingly, the new nerves were found to follow their original path rather than growing randomly.

Whether or not helping nerves grow in this way in human patients would be enough to allow functional recovery after spinal injury is a different matter. The new nervous tissue only grew by about four millimetres through the scar. This would be inadequate for restoring full movement in a patient with a neck injury. But Fawcett says even a few centimetres of re-growth could mean severely paralysed patients might be able to breathe unaided or move their hands.

David Bradley can be reached through his website at [www.sciencebase.com](http://www.sciencebase.com)



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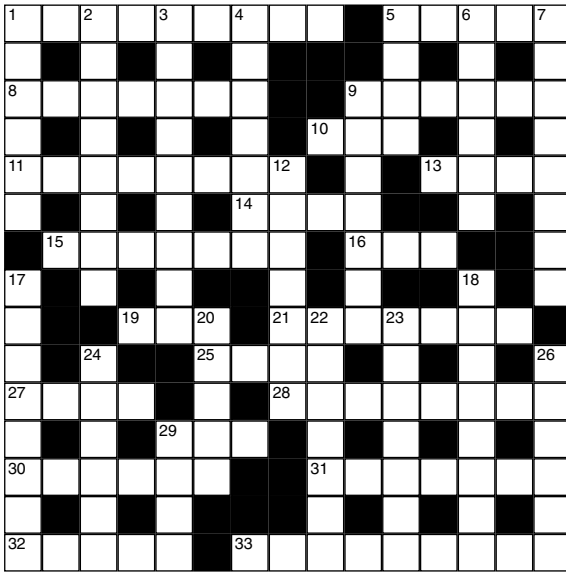
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# Crossword

Compiled by Roger Gautrey



## ACROSS

- 1 Is Matt a Doctor? No a Scriptwriter (9)
- 5 Extreme anger of father if he's not in warpath (5)
- 8 Les has huff over soft shoe dance (7)
- 9 Milled the soil perhaps (6)
- 10 Tuber for May – could be (3)
- 11 Broadminded elect colonel in charge (8)

- 13 Son to be briefly featureless (4)
- 14 Animal back from point intoned (4)
- 15 Lured to the end site, we hear (7)
- 16 Urge direction of child's horse (3)
- 19 Gun beast down (3)
- 21 Rustles up glossy sheens (7)
- 25 Automatic nets – maybe (4)
- 27 Expectantly look for a hill (4)
- 28 Cite tide in relation to nourishment (8)
- 29 Horse, inlet, plant, howl and window (3)
- 30 Introduce into mind gradually forty nine after this month (6)
- 31 Television authority in time will copy not repeat (7)
- 32 Tuna salad has a nose content (5)
- 33 Destry rode right out again and vandalised (9)

## DOWN

- 1 Served up – she did! (6)
- 2 Latin water enthusiast might use one down under (8)
- 3 Infect oaf with tenderness (9)
- 4 White miser has detail on list (7)
- 5 Cordial, cosy, eager and excited (4)
- 6 Old pupil looks at United Nations mail (6)
- 7 Utmost pleasure I get when she puts don and it together (8)
- 9 Fly grabs ingenious tools (7)
- 12 Five hundred cued up plus five hundred other to be embraced (7)
- 17 I tag Noel at the official residence (8)
- 18 Robbing room where ray and don vest (8)
- 20 Hackneyed, everyday, regular, run of the mill word (5)
- 22 I sue fin for making things simple (7)
- 23 I rate the race as more than shabby (7)
- 24 Drinks to honour the browned breads (6)
- 26 Tiresome writing by the concrete layer (6)
- 29 William gives his account shortly (4)

*Answers on inside back cover*

Cambridge Cabinet Makers

# NEW BUS PASS

Catching a bus couldn't be easier thanks to a new photocard bus pass being launched throughout the County.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is just one of the authorities to hop on to the new scheme with a subsidy of over £200,000. From 1st April 2000 there is no charge for the pass, as in previous years, and the new passes will have a security identifying photocard.

Councillor Simon Kime, Chairman of South Cambridgeshire District Council explained, "This is a great bonus to our residents – many who are in quite rural areas and don't find it easy to get around. Reduced fares are available on all local bus services throughout Cambridgeshire. It also enables eligible passengers to travel on journeys that start or end in either of those areas – though unfortunately long distances express coach services or excursions off to the Continent are ruled out!"

To qualify for the new pass potential passengers need to belong to the following groups:

- pensioners (men aged 65 or over, or women aged 60 or over).
- disabled people who qualify for the higher rate mobility component Disability Living Allowance.
- registered deaf.
- those who are without speech, and can provide medical evidence.
- those who are prevented from obtaining a driving license on medical grounds.
- those registered blind or partially sighted.
- those who have a learning disability which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning.

The pass gives reductions of 50% on all single and return fares (there is no maximum reduction as in previous years). It will not give reductions on special tickets or passes, such as Rover tickets, 'Megariders', five or ten journey books of tickets. If passengers hold a pass because they are blind or partially sighted, they travel free.

Residents of South Cambridgeshire can collect their pass from the Council Offices 9–11 Hills Road, Cambridge or from any village Post Office in the District.

To collect a pass there is a simple application form to complete and a requirement to prove eligibility. This could be evidence of age, or a registration form or card. All passes issued from 1 April will require a passport sized photograph.

# A NOTE FROM JAMES PAICE MP

It is a long time since I received so many letters on one issue as I have about the future of Cottenham Post Office. As a result I met Kim Holland and saw the excellent job which she does for the village. I promised to do what I can to keep it open.

In the last year post offices have been closing at the rate of 11 a week in the UK. This is largely due to the Government's decision to stop paying all benefits in cash from 2003; this represents for most post offices 30 or 40 percent of business and for some such as Kim Holland much more. Unfortunately this decision meant scrapping the system which the previous government was developing to use a swipe card system which would combat fraud and still allow benefits to be paid in cash. About 30 percent of pensioners do not have a bank account and should not be forced to have one; their visit to the post office is an important weekly event. Having lived in villages all my life I know how important the post office is to the life of a village.

So what can be done? Many people have suggested that Kim should be allowed to sell Road Tax. At present the contract between the Post Office and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency only allows 3000 post offices to sell these discs so for a new one to start means another must stop. I am trying to persuade the Agency to change this policy and I will be trying to get the next Government to intervene. On its own though, Road Tax will not save many Post Offices, there needs to be other sources of income such as the provision of financial services. Ultimately the only real salvation is to drop the Government's policy and go to a 'smartcard' system. That is an issue for the election.

*Jim Paice MP*

## MERTON HALL

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- CONIFERS ETC

# CUBS ARE GOOD CHUMS

Wednesday Cubs like to:

- Have fun
- Gain badges
- Go on trips
- Go camping
- Go hiking
- Eventually become a Scout

Our favourite activities are playing games, like football, table tennis and throwing water bombs outside. Also we love cooking either outside or inside and then, of course, eating it.

We have done a variety of fascinating trips, which covered:

- Pond dipping
- Swimming
- Laserquest
- Ghost Hunt
- Oliver Cromwell's House
- Fire Station

Normally we have an annual hike and complete it with a barbeque.



## Do you fancy having a 'Taste of Scouting?'

If you are an adult and fancy helping to run a Scout Group like Cubs, contact Paul Raynor (Group Scout Leader) on 01954 200015. If you are aged 8 to 10 1/2 years and fancy tasting the fun and joining Cubs, contact Akela on 01954 251653. We do have spaces at the moment; so don't worry about giving us a ring.

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# WATCH OUT!

A neighbourhood watch scheme is a partnership between the police and the community to prevent or reduce the opportunities for crime and increase the likelihood of catching criminals.

There are currently 14 schemes operating within Cottenham but I would like to increase this number to cover those areas of the village that do not have schemes. In particular on the new estates of Tenison Manor and Brenda Gautrey Way where, as yet, there are no schemes.

It's worth remembering that being a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme can reduce the cost of home insurance.

Anybody interested in starting a Neighbourhood Watch scheme can contact me at Histon Police Station on 01223 358966 or by email at – graham.whitby@cambs.police.uk

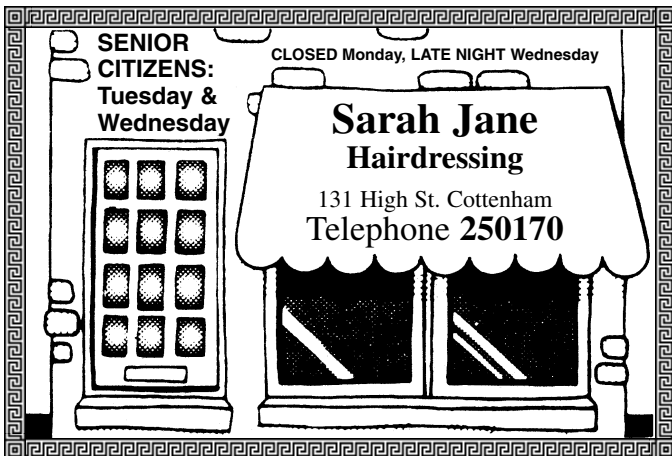
*Graham Whitby PC953*

Graham Whitby has provided some crime figures for the village for March of this year so that we don't get lulled into thinking that Cottenham is perfectly safe and there is no need to be vigilant. We will make these crime reports an occasional feature in the *Newsletter* to keep you informed.

In March 2001 in Cottenham the following crimes were reported to the Police:

- two dwelling house burglaries in Pelham Close and Ellis Close.
- three Shed/outbuilding burglaries in Setchell Drove, High St and Lambs Lane.
- thefts from or damage to motor vehicles in Beach Rd, Rampton Rd, Coolidge Gardens and Leopold Walk.

*Eddie Murphy*



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# LETTERS to the Editors

Dear Editor,

Is this the latest scam? Last week I was approached by a lad who asked if I would give him 20p to phone his mum. Although I wondered at the time if this was a genuine emergency, I gave him the sum requested.

A friend of mine said that she had also been approached by a lad with the same enquiry. As I had mentioned to her my experience she refused, telling him that he was begging.

So who is this lad? Motherly Women of Cottenham Beware.

Yours sincerely,

Name and address supplied  
.....

Dear Editor,

The Coffee Morning/Bring & Buy Sale on the 10th March raised £626.30 as the final total sent to Leukemia Research Fund. As this is GIFT AIDED they will be able to claim some extra funds from Income Tax.

Our thanks go, once again, not only to those who came to us on the morning, but also to the many who, known and unknown, sent donations.

Our gratitude also to Clements Hardware, Wards Greengrocers, Cambridge Building Society and Gawthrops the Butchers, who give us generous prizes year after year for the raffle.

They support us, please support them.

Joyce and Henry Fleck  
.....

Across  
1 Dramatist, 5 Wrath, 8 Shuffie, 9 Ground,  
10 Yam, 11 Eclectic, 13 Anon, 14 Sung,  
15 Enticed, 16 Egg, 19 Gnu, 21 Lustres, 25 Sten,  
27 Agog, 28 Dietetic, 29 Bay, 30 Instil, 31 Imitate,  
32 Nasal, 33 Destroyed  
Down  
1 Dished, 2 Aqualung, 3 Affection, 4 Itemise,  
5 Warm, 6 Alumni, 7 Hedonist, 9 Gadgets,  
12 Cuddled, 17 Legation, 18 Vestary, 20 Usual  
22 Unites, 23 Tattler, 24 Toasts, 26 Scream, 29 Bill

— Crossword answers —

## CORRECTION

In the letters page of the last edition of the *Newsletter*, a donation to the Cottenham Mobile Warden Scheme was credited to Cambridge University Sports and Social Club instead of to Cottenham United Sports and Social club. This happened because I expanded the CUSSC acronym without checking with the author of the letter that I has chosen correctly. The error was entirely my fault and I apologise to all concerned for the error.

Eddie Murphy

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.

*Deadline*

**FOR NEXT ISSUE  
25th JUNE**

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	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
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	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.....	Pegasus Taxi.....	01954 261324
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

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