RUMBLING ON

The issue of teenagers’ actions and needs is still top of the agenda here at The Newsletter. I have had many comments from people around the village about the letter from a teenager published in the last edition. Our letters page this time is completely dominated by the issue and a range of opinions are expressed there. There are some very positive suggestions and offers of support.

Unfortunately, there has been an ugly incident since we last went to press. The home of one family has been attacked – eggs have been thrown and graffiti daubed on the house and the road outside. Whatever the frustrations felt by the teenagers (and there are many), this behaviour is deplorable. The police, parish council, schools and parents have been alerted to the incident and, hopefully, this is the last time anything like this will take place. The campaign for skateboarding facilities, or for any facilities for teenagers in the village, will not be helped by this kind of behaviour.

As the weather deteriorates (and hasn’t it just) the issue of conflict between teenagers and residents is likely to subside. However, we need to make sure that actions take place over the winter so that when the sun shines again in the spring and early summer, there are facilities for the teenagers to enjoy themselves without making the lives of some residents a misery.

Activities for the youth of Cottenham is a bit of a recurring theme in this edition. There are appeals for people to come forward to assist both the Scouts (letter) and the Brownies (article “Girls’ night out”) contained in this issue. These organisations provide valuable diversions for children and teenagers and encourage participation in activities which are constructive and fun. The need is great and the benefits for the whole village are obvious. If you can spare a few hours regularly (or even irregularly) please respond to the appeals inside. You would be doing the community a great service and (I am told) it is great fun!

We have a new occasional column about farming which appears for the first time in this Newsletter. How times change – Cottenham is no longer primarily an agricultural community. However, there is still significant farming activity around the village and I thought that people here might be interested in the issues which occupy the minds of farmers locally and nationally. Our contributor has a professional involvement in farming and therefore prefers to remain anonymous. However, his/her pseudonym (Couch Grass) is reason enough to allocate space!

Eddie Murphy

---

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HELP: 8-year old boy needs small piece of land around Cottenham area to practice target shooting with air rifle under adult supervision. This is practice for future competition. Call Mark on 01954 201175

ARTIST SEEKS BOG OAK TO CARVE. Do you have some lying around? Also, advice from anyone on the appearance of Cottenham cows would be useful. Tel: 01954 201901

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’.

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ARTICLES, DATES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

E-mail, PC floppy disk and paper submissions are all welcome. Please contact the Editor if you have any questions. Dates of events to be advertised in the next issue (No. 73) should span the last week of January and the months of February and March.
GIRLS’ NIGHT OUT

How many people are lucky enough to have a Girls’ Night Out once a week? As one of the Leaders of a Brownie unit in Cottenham, I spend an hour-and-a-half every Tuesday night in the company of 24 Brownies, singing, playing games, sewing, cooking and much more.

I started helping with Brownies because I love working with children. Brownies gives girls the chance to get to know other girls their age and to learn new skills. It’s great knowing that the girls get a chance to try new activities, share their skills and, most of all, to have fun together.

As a Leader, there are lots of opportunities to meet other Leaders and helpers; lots of training courses that I can choose if I want to, and a website to dip into for more ideas and resources. I’m currently working on the Guide Leadership Qualification, which will allow me to become an official Leader rather than a helper! There are plenty of people to turn to for help and support and a chance to share ideas and find out what the other local Brownie, Rainbow and Guide units are doing at District meetings.

Brownie units always need extra help and I would encourage anyone to come along and give it a try! For the local contacts in Cottenham and surrounding areas, phone Vivien Lampard on 01954 200811.

Pauline Allin

OUT OF TOWN

It is difficult to believe that for the last three years world consumption of wheat has been greater than production. The 2002 harvest has been a near disaster for the major exporting countries. While the arguments over the benefits, or otherwise, of organic food rattle on, with no clear cut answer, the impact of lack of food is less open to dispute.

What’s most surprising from this side of the fence is that wheat prices are pretty much as low as we have ever seen, with barely a farm in the UK making a profit, let alone producing enough money to live on. Despite foot and mouth and mad cow disease it is the arable sector that is being hit hardest now. What do you do: produce more in the hope that prices will rise, and profits recover, or get out with a lifetime of experience and skills wasted, but while there is still some money left? I don’t know.

Brownie units always need extra help and I would encourage anyone to come along and give it a try! For the local contacts in Cottenham and surrounding areas, phone Vivien Lampard on 01954 200811.
Meetings held on 10th September and 15th October included the following ongoing matters, and the updates may be of interest:

**• Broad Lane Development** – More correspondence, and contact with the District Council should have resulted in some action by the time you read these notes.

**• The Village Pound** – The Council has received architect’s drawings, and approved a design which will provide spaces for five cars. The work must be done when there is no risk of prolonged frost as the special lime mortar that needs to be used is affected by frost. Therefore the work will be done in spring next year.

**• Recreational Facilities** – The lease of additional land adjacent to the Recreation Ground area for the provision of additional football pitches has been approved. Also additional equipment has been purchased for the Recreation Ground.

Other issues discussed included the following:

**• Anti-Social Behaviour** – Parents, do you know or care what your teenage sons and daughters get up to on Friday nights? There is a serious problem being suffered on the Recreation Ground involving under age drinking, and glass bottle breakages in the car park, and on playing surfaces. The Council and the Police are very concerned at the anti-social behaviour, and would ask parents to help to eradicate the problems.

**• Skateboarding** – Contact has been made with some of the youngsters with a view to ascertaining what is required in the form of location, materials, style etc. Information is being acquired from other villages where there are skateboarding facilities, particularly as to how the project was funded. A copy of a set of Byelaws produced by East Cambs District Council has been offered to the Council, and we have referred an item within it regarding skateboarding to our District Council. We are informed by the Legal Officers that no such byelaw exists within our area of the county.

**• “Village Seat”** – This is situated once again outside the Conservative Club following requests from residents for it to be returned. Please ensure that it is a meeting place for the best intentions.

**• Victory Way** – The County Council are being asked to correct the road markings at the entrance, and again a request is being made for the provision of two way traffic facilities on both sides of the entrance by narrowing the footpaths.

**• Library** – The Council has received a letter advising changes to the opening times, and pointing out that the usage has reduced in recent months. It is like most things, if you do not use it you will lose it, so let us all try to become more educated!

**• Financial Year Ended 31/03/02** – Audit regulations have been introduced by the Government this year. Details of the accounts will be displayed on the parish noticeboards.

**• Village Appraisal / Parish Plan** – Cambridgeshire Acre (Action with Communities in Rural England) spoke to the full Council in early October regarding the production of a “Parish Plan” to help us as a rural community to indicate how we would like our village to develop, how we can identify key facilities and services, how to set out the problems that need to be tackled, and demonstrate how our distinctive character and features can be preserved. So to enable the social, economic and environmental issues of our village to be addressed the whole community will need to be involved. To move this very important matter forward three of our councillors have formed a committee, and will involve others within the village. Watch this space!

**• Surplus Book Tokens** – These are from the Jubilee event, and have been offered to the Ladybirds Pre-School Play Group.

**• Joint Funding Scheme** – In the last Newsletter reference was made to speeding in Broad Lane. The Council is putting in a bid for 2003/4 for calming measures to be introduced.

**• Dog Fouling** – It has come to the notice of a number of councillors that the dog litter bins are not being used by all dog owners. It is clearly dangerous as well as unsightly if you do not clean up after your faithful friend has performed. Some people clean up, and then leave the bag on the pavement. Please do the job properly, and be faithful to your four footed friend, and use the dog litter bins provided. Thank you in anticipation of a cleaner Cottenham.

**• Parish Council & Planning Application Meetings** – A reminder that the public may attend these meetings, the dates for which are in the “Village Diary”. You are very welcome to attend, but please remember that you are not allowed to speak at these meetings.

**• Current Parish Council Membership**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>David Norman, Chairman</td>
<td>160, High Street</td>
<td>250917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Smith, Vice Chairman</td>
<td>Lockspit Hall Farm, Smithy Fen</td>
<td>252578</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Clarke, 12</td>
<td>Lambs Lane</td>
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<td>Hugh Gautrey, 81</td>
<td>Rooks Street</td>
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<td>Tim Wotherspoon, 3 Horse Shoes</td>
<td>Tony Nicholas, 77</td>
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<td>Pelham Way</td>
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<td>Rex Collinson, 20</td>
<td>Rampton Road</td>
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<td>Dennis Buckley, 350</td>
<td>High Street</td>
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<td>Pat Fox, 49</td>
<td>Victory Way</td>
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<td>Pauline Allin, 35</td>
<td>Dunstal Field</td>
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<td>Mark Bidwell, 2</td>
<td>The Herons</td>
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<td>Paula Johnson, 36</td>
<td>Lee Close</td>
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<td>David Warham, 28</td>
<td>High Street</td>
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<td>Alan Leekes, 25</td>
<td>Dunstal Field</td>
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<td>David Mudd, 23</td>
<td>The Linnets</td>
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GREETINGS FROM DOWN UNDER

The Newton family from the village are on an extended touring holiday/adventure in New Zealand. They are in regular correspondence with some people in the village but I thought that a wider audience might be interested in their adventures. So prepare to be a bit jealous and read on....

Imagine the scene.....

We are a family of four touring around New Zealand in a campervan, and are ‘parking up’ on the drive of some new friends that we met in church the previous Sunday. Our elderly neighbour appears to say hello, enjoys a guided tour of the camper and then returns with grapefruit from her garden, books for the children, an interesting insect-eating plant to nurture (it has since died, despite the children desperately feeding it insects), leaflets recommending numerous areas of the country worth visiting, and even a booklet about a castle in Scotland she recommends we visit next time we are near!

This incident is typical of our experience in New Zealand over the past two months; the friendliness and hospitality of ‘strangers’ accompanied by the ‘awesome’ (the Kiwi expression for all things good) scenery have exceeded our expectations of the country.

To digress for a moment, modern technology is such that we read an electronic version of the last edition of the Cottenham Newsletter here in NZ even before the paper version was distributed. Grateful thanks to our Editor for keeping us in touch with our home village. We agreed to reciprocate with a few thoughts from our trip.

We would like to be able to bring a taste of summer to the, by now, rather wintry, damp fens, but at the moment we are at the bottom of Mt. Ruapehu, waiting for the 80–100 kph winds to subside and the ski slopes to reopen for the last few weeks of the season. It is wet and cold where we are, with snow falling at higher altitudes.

Never mind, we do need to spend some time inside doing ‘home schooling’ of our children aged 9 and 5. At the time of typing they are washing-up, which is their regular job in the campervan – a skill they had to learn quickly in this age of dishwashers!

Talking of electronic gadgetry, we have noticed how little many of the items that seem to dominate our lives at home we have missed. Some we even have access to here and barely use; this is especially true of the children, who haven’t asked to play on ‘Gameboys’ or computer games, despite their availability, They are happy to read books, explore outside and make their own entertainment.

The campervan has become our ‘home’, and the few occasions when we have not slept in it recently have felt odd. We are used to the routine of turning beds into seating areas in the morning and vice versa at night, and by necessity are generally very organised. Our house will seem huge when we return. There are many benefits of having a small space when it comes to housework: just a few square feet of carpet to vacuum, one sink and a combined loo and shower room to clean, and nothing really to dust!

So, what, if anything, are we missing? Friends and family most of all; we do try to keep in contact by e-mail and occasional phone calls, but it isn’t the same as being there. Matthew and Lydia miss their school friends, but have got closer to each other by having to be close, and have also made new friends along the way. It is people we miss rather than places or things, with the exception that Paula would like the campervan to have a bath! However, we feel privileged to have this opportunity to spend so much time together as a family. We hope that the experience in itself will be an ‘education’ for our children that they will never forget, and that it will help us all to broaden our perspectives and reassess our priorities.

David, Paula, Matthew and Lydia Newton.
CALLING ALL CRICKETERS

As reported in the last Newsletter, Cottenham Cricket Club’s 1st XI has gained promotion to Division 1 of the Cambs Cricket Association Senior League. This was a brilliant achievement by a squad of players that, with only one or two changes in personnel, has taken the club from Junior League 4 North to its current position in just five seasons. Next summer will present a terrific challenge for the team, especially as Paul Ellsmore, who has skippered the side for the last five seasons, has left the area. The departure of ‘Ellers’, and maybe the odd other player due to job changes, means that there will be a place or two going in both the 1st and 2nd XI squads. We are keen to maintain the progress that the club has made in recent years so we would like to invite any good-standard cricketers, living in or near the village but not currently playing with us, to give serious consideration to joining us. We want to keep Cottenham cricket on the up, not just for the current bunch of players but also for all our youngsters to benefit from in the coming years. We have just celebrated our 150th anniversary as a club and we would like to think that, in another 150 years, cricket will still be thriving in Cottenham.

Talking about our youngsters reminds me to say a few words about our Junior teams. Last season, we ran Junior sides in the under 11, 13, 14 and 15 age groups. All the teams started slowly with indifferent results but managed to pick up towards the end of the season and all the sides finished mid-table. Had they performed better at the beginning of the season, then we could have been in with a chance of winning any of the respective Leagues, particularly at the under-14 level. The club is indebted to Mick Dean, Jay Howes, James Crouchman and Matt Talaga who all did a fine job in helping to coach and run the junior teams. The help of quite a few parents was also greatly appreciated. The value of youth development is already bearing fruit with a good number of our ‘older’ youngsters performing well for the 3rd XI and both Matthew Cundell and Alex Butler playing for the 2nd XI. In addition, the following Junior players were selected to have trials for the district teams this half term. If successful, they will receive special coaching next year and play representative games for the District. Those selected are: Alex Butler, Matthew Cundell, Adam Dunnett, Steven Howells, Daniel Parrott, Jonathan Browne, Chris Brown, Russell Garner, Josh Coughlan, Ryan Burke, Daniel McGinty and Tom Moller.

The new square is making good progress but getting it ready for Senior League cricket is a painstaking job. We are hugely grateful to the Parish Council in helping the club to relocate the playing surface and put some distance between us and the bowling green! Neville Rice and Paul Laston are working hard on it but it will be a year or two yet before it can be ‘christened’. Meanwhile work continues to maintain and improve the current square.

Looking ahead, details of indoor nets for the new season will be known after Christmas but, if you would like to make contact, please don’t leave it until then. Just give any of those named on the next page a ring.

continued on next page
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The Cottenham Cricket Club 1st XI squad pictured after the last match of the season in which they clinched promotion to Senior League Division 1

back: Matt Bridger, John Bowstead, Paul Ellsmore (capt.), Chris Tuck, Ben Lawrence
front: Paul Laston, Graham Partridge, Nigel Partridge, Matt Talaga, Nigel Wynn, Dave Partridge
inset: Steve Halkyard (on holiday)

The Fen Reeves Community Woodland Group will once again be offering a recycling service for Christmas trees after this year’s festivities. We started this a few years ago when we needed the mulch to help the young trees in the wood. Now the trees are bigger we no longer need mulch at Fen Reeves, and the trees will be taken to the Council’s recycling site for composting.

Please bring your used trees either to the Green or the Broad Lane Green on Sunday 5th January where we’ll have trailers stationed. It’s just the tree we want, so please ensure you’ve removed all tinsel, baubles, plastic pots, wooden bases or other materials, and don’t bring any other garden waste.

If you haven’t visited Fen Reeves recently you might find it’s changed as the trees are now growing rapidly. Why not pay a visit? It’s your wood, between Twenty Pence Road and the lode just north of Brookfields Industrial Estate.
BIRD REPORT

A new species was added to Cottenham’s bird list when a White Stork was discovered in fields along Long Drove on August 27th. This handsome bird must have found conditions to its liking as it was still around more than seven weeks later. It was often seen in the fields behind the flooded area (which was rapidly drying up), sometimes exploring the ditches, and at other times on newly ploughed areas. Like the Grey Herons that frequent the same part of Cottenham, White Storks feed on fish, frogs, insects, worms and small mammals.

Was this Stork a wild bird or an escapee – like many seen in this country? Interestingly it was first seen a year and a week after a White Stork, thought to be wild, was found at Witcham, north of Haddenham, but that bird flew away the day after it was found. Sometimes ‘our’ Stork was seen very close to the road, not at all disturbed by the admiring bird-watchers. Wild Storks can be very tame: on the continent they often breed very close to people, building their nests on special platforms erected on house roofs and telegraph poles. However, White Storks are migratory and by now should be enjoying the sunshine in tropical Africa. The Long Drove Stork’s reluctance to migrate suggests that it is not truly wild.

Everyone has heard some of the myths about White Storks. My favourite Stork story, which happens to be true, is that they bred on St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh in 1416!

Anyone who is interested in the birds of Cambridgeshire and beyond might like to join the Cambridgeshire Bird Club. We organise a programme of indoor meetings with speakers on a wide range of bird subjects and publish a bimonthly bulletin and annual report, all free to members. For further details call Vicki Harley on 01954 250340 or look at the Club’s website www.cambridgeshirebirdclub.org.uk

Vicki Harley
(Jasper Kay is on holiday)

DAY CENTRE

The Cottenham Day Centre has been running since October 1986 – who said it wouldn’t last long?!

It has 40 members over 60 years old (at the present time we have a full membership) who are collected during three runs of our own minibus/ambulance between 9:30am and 10:30am. Coffee and biscuits are served on arrival, a lunch is prepared and served on the premises followed by tea or coffee, and the first bus run home starts at 2:00pm.

Activities include music, cards, bingo, keep-fit, a book and puzzle exchange library, occasional clothes sales, and coach outings.

The Day Centre is run by a voluntary band of helpers, all of whom are well past the age at which they could become members! Fresh blood is desperately needed!

Helpers arrive around 9:00am and set out the tables, chairs and cushions. Afterwards, at 2:00pm, these all have to be stacked and packed away in a cupboard.

Would you be able and willing to help at these times? Would you be able to help any time in between? Would you be willing to go on a reserve list for occasional help during holidays or illness?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please contact the Secretary, Rosemary Scarborough, on 01954 251064.
CALENDAR CHARACTERS

As well as producing our new “Cottenham in Focus” book (available from Shaun’s newsagency, the Cambridge Building Society, Anne Wright and me), the Village Society has printed 2003 calendars for sale for £4.00 from the same places. The names of some of the people featured in the calendar are now available, and Newsletter readers may be interested to know them.

February’s photograph features (from the left) Lew Burkett, Alfred Milton, Norman Lee, Bill Osbourne, Sid Golding, Reg Dorr and Billie Badcock.

April’s photograph features William Gifford, Morris Gifford and David Gifford – father, son and grandfather.

May’s photograph is of participants in Alexandra Rose Day, named after Princess Alexandra, who came to the races at Cottenham Racecourse, and after whom Denmark Road was named. In the back row are (with their married name in brackets) Mildred Gautrey (Jeeps), Nellie Young (Gilliland), Mrs Dr Cox, Frances Webb (Young), Alice Butler (Piggott) and Gladys Gautrey (Emerson). In the centre are May Coles (Few) and Frank Butler. In the front row are Edith Maskell (Ansell), Joyce Maskell (Robinson) and Mary Gautrey (Mustill).

July’s photograph features (in the back row, with unknown people shown as X) Clara Graves, X, Selina Male, X, Florrie and Nellie Smith (who are Fred Smith’s sisters), X, X and X. In the next row are Alfred Carter, Jim Moore, Norman Ward, Thomas Haird, X, and Ebenezer Chivers. In the second row are Herbert Male, Dr Cox, Duke Ivatt, Ernest Chivers, Charles Todd and Herbert Simpkins. Sidney Ward and Havelock Clarke are at the front.

December’s photograph shows, in the back row, Dennis Badcock, Gordon Levy, Michael Taylor, Maurice Murfitt, Peter Chapman and Colin Hart. At the front are X, Clem Knights, Sid Badcock, Roy Kimpton and John Badcock.

These names were supplied by Francis Garrett. He would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows the identity of the other people shown. For instance, in the much more recent cover photograph, the only person so far identified is Peter Carter, who is the driver of the front tractor, owned by Rob Clarke.

Liz Milway

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ROCKING RAMPTON!

Rampton Village Hall, Saturday night, October 5, saw the birth of a new musical phenomenon in the area. Funk-rock trio FUNKTION played their first gig in front of a rapturous 70-strong audience of teenagers, with an exciting repertoire of music from the Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Nirvana and others. The tightness of the sound was exceptional given the newness of the band. The guys, Ed Bateson (drums), Josh Navon (guitar and vocals) and Stuart Sibley (bass), all students at Cottenham Village College, had delighted a large audience at the recent CVC Summer Concert, so much so that with the encouragement and help of their parents, they organised last night’s event. They worked with dedication and enthusiasm to make their debut a roaring success.

Comments afterwards from delighted fans ensured that the band will continue to work together and will, no doubt, perform again in the near future. Watch this space for updates.

EXHIBITION

Cottenham has quite a few artists! Some of them exhibited with the Cambridge Open Studios in July. We would like to thank our many visitors for their support and I would like to thank Katie, Anna and Charlotte for their help!

On Saturday November 30 we will be having an exhibition and market with a large group of artists. Cards, gifts, paintings and sculpture will be on display in the Church Hall, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. There will be viewing time also on Sunday December 1, from noon to 2:00pm. Works which have been purchased can be collected during this time.

We hope to make visible a little of the very varied work that is done in the village and hope lots of people will come! There will of course be suitable and seasonal refreshment!


Sue Kafka-Ellis

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AUTUMN SHOW

The Autumn Show was held again this year, on Saturday September 14th. It was a very successful day – the sun shone and there were 650 entries, which is an increase of 200 on the previous year. The Show was well attended and the displays were much appreciated. The Craft and Supply stalls also did very well. It was a good opportunity for the Village to get together to enjoy a day organised by the Fen Edge Community Association, and to see what activities are available in the Village.

There were produce, cake and raffle stalls run directly by the Fen Edge Community Association and 25 other stalls – some craft and some FECA member stalls. The organisers are very appreciative of the substantial sponsorship provided by local businesses and the help given by the many volunteers. The photography section was especially popular, with a lot of entries. Children’s sections were separate and in age groups, so children of all ages had a chance to win a prize. There was also a Pets’ competition, very hard to judge as we all think our pet is the best. There were many things to purchase from the craft stalls – jams and pickles, decorated plant pots, cards, gifts and lots more.

The prize this year, for each of the 29 sections, was a Jubilee mug from Wilburton Potteries. The overall Show winner was Simon Wilson in the adults’ section and Sophie Woodroffe and Abigail White in the children’s section. For next year’s Show it is hoped to offer a full lunch at a very reasonable price. In all it was a very successful day.

So plan ahead and think about entering the 2003 Autumn Show which will be held on Saturday 13th September.

Rosalie Dunnico

VILLAGE
DESIGN GROUP

Two activities to report on: we had a stand at the Autumn Show which concentrated on building in Cottenham during the 50 years of the Queen’s reign, and an excellent walking tour which Mac Dowdy gave us of the development of the buildings in the High Street over the last 700 years. It’s marvellous to think that lurking behind the doors of some houses, which appear to be comparatively recent, are features dating as far back as the thirteenth century! This was a great event, much enjoyed by the fifty people who attended.

Steve Howie – Membership Secretary

Peter Giddens & Co.
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**FEAST PARADE**

The feast parade this year raised more than a thousand pounds for good causes in the village and beyond. Congratulations to the organisers and thanks to the people who contributed.

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**BENJAMIN ALHADEFF**

Ben Alhadeff pictured at his Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1988

We’ve learned with sadness of the death of Cottenham’s former family doctor Benjamin Alhadeff. Dr Alhadeff, who was 87, came to the village in 1950 and devoted twenty years to the care of its people. He moved to Kent in 1970, before retiring to Devon. Dr Alhadeff is survived by his wife, Marjorie, and their four children – two of whom were born in Cottenham.

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**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!
Reflections... – by Moyra A. Borg

‘Break a leg!’ Isn’t that what people usually shout when you tell them about a new theatrical production? Well ‘break a wrist’ doesn’t sound quite the same. I had gone to Cottenham Village College at 8:30 on a Saturday morning in September to help people register their entries for the Autumn Show. By 9:30 the judges had arrived and everything in the hallway went quiet. I hovered around because I wanted to go in and see the exhibits after the judges had left.

Rev Cynthia Hardiman, one of the judges, came out of the exhibition room and I told her about my role in the forthcoming Christmas pantomime. I was to be Priscilla the magic goose which laid golden eggs and saved the day. ‘A horse and a man,’ said Cynthia, ‘Nobody loves a fairy when she’s 40’. Cynthia knew all the verses and was twirling round with her walking stick over her head.

Suddenly to my horror though, she went spinning off in a downwards direction, landed on the floor and gave a yelp of pain. I was rooted to the spot in horror. Poor Cynthia had not realised that she was dancing on a slight slope and had lost her balance. I felt so dreadful that I wanted a hole to appear in the ground and swallow me up. Everyone came rushing forward and asked, ‘What happened exactly?’ An ambulance was called and in a few minutes a paramedic arrived in a small four-wheel-drive and whisked Cynthia off to Addenbrooke’s.

‘I’ll follow’, I said. En route to the hospital, I was waiting at traffic lights on Hills Road when I suddenly became aware if you don’t start when you’re 40, you never will.’ ‘Ah’, said Cynthia, ‘Nobody loves a fairy when she’s 40’. Cynthia has gone on the float on that fateful day.

I went on the Cottenham Theatre Workshop float on Cottenham Feast Sunday. There weren’t as many people as usual out to watch us go by along parts of the High Street. On the parade home, it was raining, cold and miserable. I sat there on the float, watching people all cozy in their houses waving at us from the warm and dry! Huh! Thought I, a few more people could have come out and donated a bit for Camsight and the Cottenham Charities!

My efforts at being Priscilla are progressing. I waddle, curtsey, shake my head and hiss at the men, chasing them off the stage at one point. ‘Oh I see’, a friend said, ‘so you don’t have to act!’ I’ve tried the costume on and I think I’ll be fine, so long as my eyes level up with the viewing hole, otherwise I won’t be able to see a thing! I somehow don’t think that acting is for me. Having to sing and dance at the same time makes me get out of puff after a couple of minutes! I’ve been to see some geese and videoed them to learn their ways. Who knows, I may have cracked it by December!

All the water came out and then the engine heated up so much that all your oil has burnt away.’ The AA man repaired my hose using strong plastic tape and off I went to Addenbrooke’s.

Poor Cynthia had broken her wrist. It was quite a nasty break and the bone had to be moved back into the right position. I was such a coward I had to go away while they did this! Cynthia had got to the Accident and Emergency unit at 10.30am and we left at about 5.30pm! We came home via Bella Pasta...where we consoled ourselves with a hot supper. A few weeks later, my car started to overheat and lose pints and pints of water every day. ‘I’m afraid your head gasket has gone’, I was told. This could be connected to the split hose.
COUNCILLORS’ REPORT

The Local Plan including the modifications recommended by the Inspector is ‘on deposit’ from 28 October till 9 December. Representations can be made during that period but not simply repeating those considered at the earlier public enquiry. The Plan basically leaves the development framework for Cottenham unchanged apart from small boundary adjustments at Victory Way and to the West of Histon Road. It is expected to be finally adopted next spring. A new Draft Local Plan will also be published next spring/summer and at that stage representations for or against any of its proposals will be possible.

***

Coolidge Gardens Residents’ Association has been revived with help from Pat Daniels, the Council’s Neighbourhood Manager for Cottenham. Following a well-attended first meeting, a number of residents have become actively involved and are following up matters which affect Coolidge Gardens. Residents and Council representatives have also made a tour of the area to pinpoint items which might need addressing or improving. Hopefully as many residents as possible from Coolidge Gardens, whether they are tenants or owner-occupiers, will become involved and it is hoped to produce a newsletter. Meanwhile, further information can be obtained from your District Councillors, or from Pat Daniels tel. 01223 443042.

***

The new Conservation Manager, Nick Grimshaw, can give advice re historic and listed buildings and the availability of grants to help their upkeep/repair. He can also advise on issues which affect residents living in conservation areas. He can be contacted at South Cambs Hall, Hills Road, Cambridge. Direct dial: 01223 443180.

***

Councillors’ Surgery continues on the third Friday of the month in the community room at Franklin Gardens from 5:30pm to 6:30pm – or you are always welcome to contact us at home (251377 or 201314). Apologies if you have sent an e-mail recently which has not been answered. Computer problems have led to some of them being lost/deleted. Do get in touch again.

Rex Collinson & Tony Nicholas

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Well, I’ve at last drawn up a programme for the Cinema Club for next year, trying to take into account suggestions I’ve received. At this stage it’s only provisional, mainly because it has been suggested that we should increase the frequency of sessions, perhaps to every two weeks, and perhaps showing different sorts of films on the alternate sessions. See the correspondence section of the Cottenham Newsletter for more on this! And don’t forget the remaining films for this year – Fitzcarraldo and Withnail and I.

Steve Howie

January: Arsenic and Old Lace (Frank Capra, 1944, US) a comedy to lighten at least one winter evening! Starring Cary Grant

February: two meetings: Jean de Florette, Manon des Sources (Claude Berri, 1986-7, France) acclaimed drama based on Marcel Pagnol’s novels, with Gerard Depardieu, Emmanuelle Beart and Yves Montand

March: Peeping Tom (Michael Powell, 1960, GB) Powell’s intriguing last film which, in the words of one critic, “single-handedly tried to bring the British film industry into the present tense”

April: Seven Samurai (Akira Kurosawa, 1954, Japan) Kurosawa’s masterpiece

May: silent double bill! Un Chien Andalou (Luis Bunuel, Salvador Dali, 1929, France) extraordinary, surreal short from the future maker of The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie and the self-styled greatest artist of the twentieth century, and Man With a Movie Camera (Dziga Vertov, 1929, USSR) an exhilarating and often hilarious exploration of the relationship between cinema, actuality and history. I’m hoping to be able to organise live piano accompaniment to this

June: Fargo (Coen Brothers, 1996, US) an earlier film from the makers of the acclaimed Oh Brother Where Art Thou? and The Man Who Wasn’t There

July: Les Enfants du Paradis (Marcel Carne, 1945, France) voted the best French film ever made by the French Film Academy. With Arletty and Jean-Louis Barrault

September: 2001: A Space Odyssey (Stanley Kubrick, 1968, GB) has been described as “an uniquely poetic piece of science fiction”

October: Black Jack (Ken Loach, 1979, GB) rarely seen film by director of the famous Kes. Just as naturalistic, but set in the 1750’s

November: Amelie (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, France, 2001) the must-see feel-good film of last year, which seems to have brought French cinema to a new audience. With Audrey Tautou

December: Hannah and Her Sisters (Woody Allen, 1986, US) three-Oscar winner starring Michael Caine, Mia Farrow, Barbara Hershey as well as Allen himself
Firstly, an apology to all who can count beyond eight. The two insects missing from the solutions of the Newsletter were, of course, dragonfly and moth.

For much of the summer there has been a white stork in residence at Long Drove. Here are some puzzles in its honour:

❶ Why does a stork stand on one leg?

❷ Why are storks unhappy in the mornings?

❸ If a stork and a half lay an egg and a half in a day and a half, how many eggs will six storks lay in six days?

That should be

\[
\text{a HEN and a half!}
\]

❹ If storks fly at uniform speed due south from Long Drove at intervals of two minutes and a crow flies at a similar speed along the same path in the opposite direction, how many storks will the crow meet in half an hour?

❺ How far can a black-stork wade into a pond is 30 feet wide and less than 18 inches deep? Remember that 12 inches is equal to 30cms.

❻ Lewis Carroll is said to have invented the word ladder, whereby one word is changed to another, one letter at a time, each step making a valid word. Thus cat, cot, dot, dog is three steps. Carroll’s best-known example is ‘black’ to ‘white’ in eight moves. Can you solve it?

❼ I was told, at first, that our bird was not a Stork but a crane. Can you change crane to stork in seven moves?

\[
\text{THE CROW'S JOURNEY:}
\]

\begin{align*}
\text{black} & \rightarrow \text{blow} & \rightarrow \text{blue} & \rightarrow \text{spree} & \rightarrow \text{shire} & \rightarrow \text{shine} & \rightarrow \text{white} \\
\text{30's will already be in the air and 15 will take off during the crow's journey.}
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{because their bills are over daw.} \\
\text{because it would fall over if it did not.}
\end{align*}

\[
\text{Solutions:}
\]

\begin{align*}
\text{❶ Because it would fall over if it did not.} \\
\text{❷ Because their bills are over daw.} \\
\text{❸ 24} \\
\text{❹ 30’s will already be in the air and 15 will take off during the crow's journey.} \\
\text{❺ Because it would fall over if it did not.} \\
\text{❻ black-slack-slick-slice-spice-spine-shine-white} \\
\text{❼ crane-crank-crack-crock-chock-shock-stock-stork}
\end{align*}
Dear Editor,

Further to the recent correspondence. I sympathise with the youngsters in our village because of the shortage of facilities for directing their energies. However, the village needs to make best use of what is available.

During 1999 to 2000 the Parish Council, National Lotteries Charity Board, Foundation for Sport and the Arts, South Cambridgeshire District Council and individuals within our community gave nearly £60,000 to rebuild the Scout and Guide HQs in Margett Street. In addition many people gave an enormous amount of their time helping with the building work. Although the scouts, beavers, cubs and guides get a lot of use from the building it remains vacant during the holiday period and at weekends.

We have recently received a generous donation from the Cottenham Charity Cup for the purchase of Unihoc equipment. We therefore have indoor hockey facilities, two table tennis tables and a small billiard table. If there was sufficient adult supervision we would be only too pleased to make the facilities available for youngsters during holidays and weekends providing activities did not affect the excellent relationship which we have with our neighbours. For those people who have never seen the building, there are male, female and disabled toilets and a good kitchen attached to the large hall (55 x 21 feet). It is sad that the village does not make better use of what is currently available.

In addition there is a thriving canoeing club (Cottenham and Rampton Scout and Guide Canoe Club) where up to 45 canoeists from three villages meet at Over on Wednesday nights during the summer and also go on river, surfing and white water trips. There are 16 Cottenham canoeists which come from the Scout and Guide groups although we have enough equipment for many more.

Unfortunately, because of the lack of parents willing to give something back to the community and run these groups, the scout section will finish at the end of this term, unless someone agrees to take over. We are also in need of cub leaders, as our only cub section is oversubscribed with 30 members where five years ago there were two sections, each of 24.

It seems that the easiest thing to do is to make excuses and leave it to someone else. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, that seems to be the prevailing attitude in our village.

Yours sincerely

Ian Griffiths
Chairman, 2nd Cottenham Scout Group

........

continued overleaf
Dear Editor,

In his well-written but somewhat strident letter, the self-styled ‘PIYA’ teenager made the common error of confusing his ‘wants’ with his ‘needs’; at the same time displaying a youthful arrogance we are now used to.

For instance, to suggest that the bad behaviour of certain youths is due to the ignorance of adults because the latter “have no idea of what it is like to be young” and “have not realised it is now the year 2002” is so farcical that any validity his views may have had was squandered.

His further allegation that were we adults to be in his shoes “with nowhere to go and not a whole lot of money” we would be spending our time getting drunk, destroying public seats and dustbins as well as leaving litter everywhere, is also ridiculous.

In our youthful days we did not have the radio, television or computers; we had very little if any pocket money and could not afford a can of beer, cigarettes, a takeaway supper and chocolates, evidence of which is strewn around the seats on the village green and on the steps of the Methodist Chapel almost daily by present-day teenagers.

We also lacked the opportunities for self-education that abound today. Any modern youth who finds his life boring must look inwards towards himself; it’s no use blaming us adults.

We had solitude, long hours of hard physical work, inclement weather and a world war which we took in our stride.

To finish, may I offer him some cheerful news: he will soon grow old and have to put up with the shenanigans of the teenagers of his time – I wish him good luck, he’ll need it!

Old Timer

..........

Dear Editor,

I regularly walk past the pond and park at the end of Broad Lane and feel how sad it is that it is so seldom used. However, recently a large group celebrated there and left a huge mess behind. Two of us walkers picked up seven or eight bags of litter crossly. In addition to the litter, fencing had been broken and a couple of small trees snapped.

There is also quite a lot of other rubbish around in that area – dog-mess next to the dog bin, cigarette boxes, plastic bottles. Several age and income groups have messy habits in this village. Perhaps people can copy some dog-walkers and take plastic bags with them to pick things up.

Younger friends have been telling me about high bus fares, infrequent youth-club meetings and skateboarding difficulties. Our young people are our most precious asset – they are the future. Can’t we at least do as much for them as this splendid village (quite rightly) does for its old people? What about “care cars for kids” – a cheaper mass taxi group? Can’t some of us open up our workshops, studios, music rooms to them? Of course there will have to be some charge. I’m sure there are solutions!

Please let’s all look! This is a special village, with special people.

I have heard that something is being done about the skateboarding problem. That is very good – but it won’t be quick – complex insurance problems are bound to arise.

Finally, referring to the damage in Broad Lane mentioned above – perhaps the celebrators would like to quietly repair the fence and plant a couple of trees – I’d help!

Concerned Villager

continued from previous page

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Dear Editor,

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

It was good to read the spirited and amusing letter from the ‘nuisance teenagers’ of Cottenham in your last issue. Any group which can respond in such a thought-provoking and engaging way clearly deserve to have their concerns taken seriously and are obviously capable of helping to contribute to a solution.

To the writers of the letter we would say this:

As the District Councillors for Cottenham, we would be only too happy to meet you and discuss the problems as you see them and your ideas for solving them. But a word of warning – we have to fight battles too and, for all sorts of reasons, it’s not always easy to get what we and members of the local community want! However, if we can listen to each other’s point of view and work together, we’re likely to achieve far more than if we just stand on opposite sides hurling blame.

As councillors, our job is to try to represent the whole community – young, old and those in between – so why not get in touch with us? Our contact details are on the back cover of the Newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Rex Collinson and Tony Nicholas
South Cambs District Councillors for Cottenham

Dear Editor,

Following the recent correspondence about facilities for young people in Cottenham, I wonder if anybody would be interested in an expansion of the Fen Edge Cinema club, specifically aimed at younger people? Following the success of the film club, I have received requests to increase the showings to twice monthly, with the new session being different in nature. So in a spirit of offering something for young people to do, I thought it might be possible to combine the two ideas. So if any teenagers would like to get in touch with me with suggestions of films they’d like to see screened in Cottenham, they should please feel free to get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely

Steve Howie, 31 Harlestones Road, Tel: 01954 250823
smh@howies.fsnet.co.uk

We would like to thank everyone who contacted us with concern and support, following the attack on our house. Many of you chronicled your own upsets caused by the daily encounters with the skateboarders who have made Bullfinch Way the unofficial Cottenham Skatepark.

Obstructing traffic with ramps placed in the middle the road (endangering lives at the same time), intimidating car drivers and dumping discarded broken-up ramps in the waterways and drainage dykes are common themes. Noise is clearly a big problem for many of us too.

More worryingly, children and older residents are being affected by the presence of groups of teenage boys (not from the estate) ‘acting up’ away from their homes.

Vandalism and intimidation are what happens when it gets out of hand.

We appreciate it’s not all skateboarders – just as it’s not all teenagers – acting inappropriately. Unfortunately, the actions of a few will spoil it for the majority, especially when the solution to their needs involves money and people are asked to vote on how it is spent.

However, and with respect, Governors of the Village School and members of the Parish Council need to wake up and take steps to provide an area within the school grounds for skateboarders to use as soon as possible.

It doesn’t need to have thousands spent on it straight away - the kids can design and advise on what equipment they want (within a budget) once the space is provided. Surely it’s the best place to site a skateboarding area and the best solution for everyone?

Something has to change and soon – for everyone’s sake.

C & P.
### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>250079</td>
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<td>Dr. M. Grande, 42 Telegraph Street</td>
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<td>Cottenham CareCar</td>
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<td>Cottenham Day Centre</td>
<td>Mrs. M. Gilbey, 45 Victory Way</td>
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<td>Cottenham Helpline</td>
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<td>Wednesdays (12.00 - 2.00 pm)</td>
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<td>Carol Grange</td>
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<td>252122</td>
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<td>Cottenham Village College and Community Office</td>
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<td>Cambridgeshire County Council</td>
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<td>Parish Council</td>
<td>Clerk – P. J. Sanderson, 37 Broad Lane</td>
<td>250836</td>
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<td>251377</td>
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<td>Tony Nicholas 77 Pelham Way, e-mail: <a href="mailto:janicholas@genie.co.uk">janicholas@genie.co.uk</a></td>
<td>201314</td>
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<td>780008</td>
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<td>CAB, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge</td>
<td>08701 264010</td>
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<td>01223 718011</td>
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<td>Cottenham Area Team, Peterborough</td>
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<td>Area Number, Peterborough</td>
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<td>Margett Street</td>
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<td>Library Doorstep Service</td>
<td>Hilary Firth</td>
<td>01223 715715</td>
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<td>The Rectory, 6 High Street</td>
<td>250454</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rosa Hunt (Church Secretary) 62 Wilkin Walk.</td>
<td>205059</td>
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<td>Fr David Paul, St Lawrances Church, 91 Milton Road, Cambridge</td>
<td>01223 704640</td>
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<td>Methodist Church</td>
<td>The Rev’d. Cynthia Hardiman, Wesley House, 250 High Street</td>
<td>250242</td>
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<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>Majors Ken and Jill Bartlett, 15 Pelham Close</td>
<td>250524</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal British Legion</td>
<td>Matthew Baldry, 123 Coolidge Gardens. e-mail: <a href="mailto:matthew.baldry@tesco.net">matthew.baldry@tesco.net</a></td>
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