

THANKS 8250 TIMES

Congratulations to the organisers of the Yesteryear Road Run which achieved a very impressive collection (£8250) for MAGPAS again this year. This was in spite of adverse weather. Poor weather seems to be a feature of this year so far – I write this on an unseasonably chilly June evening.

Perhaps the weather is responsible for the flood of letters we have received for this edition of the *Newsletter*. We have had very few letters over the editions I have edited and I am amazed to have had six letters for this edition. I was beginning to wonder if my letterbox had seized up! Keep them coming!

Among the letters are some taking issue with my friend 'The Watchman' for extending his watching brief as far as the hostelrys of Oakington. A couple of editions ago, when we advocated using our local businesses, we had not meant that this should be to the exclusion of the fine establishments of other villages. Cottenham is, after all, a village founded on trade, locally, with the rest of the country and the rest of the world. If we use theirs, then they are, in turn, more likely to use ours!

And speaking of 'The Watchman', we have come across glad tidings from his favourite figures of ridicule – the 'woodentops' of Ofsted. They have produced a most glowing report of their inspection of

Cottenham Primary School. The report is, as those of us with children at the school know, well deserved. Cottenham Primary School is an excellent school. So excellent, in fact, that even the 'woodentops' are forced to agree. Congratulations to all the staff at the school for doing such a great job. Congratulations also to the governors, the PTA, and of course, to the pupils.

My apologies to the residents of Twentypence Road, which was omitted from the map of the village included in the last edition of the *Newsletter*. Unfortunately, space constraints meant that extending the map beyond the church would have made some of the rest of the map illegible.

This edition also contains an account from Chris Smith of his exploits in Belize with Raleigh International. Chris was able to do the good work that he did, in part, because of the generous sponsorship of people from the village. So, if you were a sponsor, read on and see what you contributed towards.

Finally, Emily Hooton will be taking maternity leave from the *Newsletter* editorial team for a few months. We wish her all the best and look forward to keeping in touch through her kind offer to continue proof-reading during this busy time.

Eddie Murphy



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VILLAGE DIARY

July

- 18th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting – Village College, 7:30pm
22nd Cottenham Extravaganza Gala Day

August

- 4th Cottenham Gardeners Club, Specialist Plant Sale, 7:30pm
7th–11th Summer School at Cottenham Village College –
Details available from the College
18th National Blood Service – Blood Donations,
Cottenham Village College, 11:00am – 7:30pm

September

- 5th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting – Village College, 7:30pm
8th Cottenham Village Society AGM, followed by
Ralph Carpenter: “The History of Sewing Machines,
Primary School, 7:45pm
8th–11th Salvation Army, Flower Show – Salvation Army Hall
9th Salvation Army, Craft Fair, Salvation Army Barn
(Behind Salvation Army Hall)
13th Cottenham Women’s Institute – Travels through India and
Nepal – Mike Parsons, Franklin Gardens Community Centre
7:30pm
29th Bus Pass Refund, Stevens Close Community Room,
4:00pm – 6:00pm
29th Ladybirds Fashion Show – Ladies clothing at bargain prices,
Social Club 7:30pm. Tickets, £3, includes a glass of wine
29th Cottenham Gardeners Club, Ottoman Gardens
– A talk by John Drake, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm

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BARGAINS GALORE! The residents of
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miss it! Contact Karin Fitch 01954 251700.

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the last week of September and the
months of October and November

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Anyone wishing to join an active babysitting circle
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GLOWING REPORT!

Cottenham Primary School has now been 'Ofsted-ed' and found to be a very good school. While all parents have received a summary of the Inspection Report, it is worth quoting the Inspection's main findings in full:

"Cottenham Primary School is a very good school which provides a wide range of opportunities for its pupils. Standards achieved by the time the pupils leave are generally above average and pupils of all levels of ability make good progress through the school. This is largely due to the quality of teaching that they are enjoying, which is good overall and a high proportion is very good or excellent. Leadership is strong and staff and governors have a shared commitment to raising standards. The school provides very good value for money."

That the school, described as a vibrant establishment, has received such a favourable report is entirely due to the efforts of all those involved in the life of the school, from the Headteacher to the caretaker, from the office staff to the lunchtime supervisors, and especially to the dedication of the teachers. The PTA and Parents as co-educators group are also worthy of a mention.

One area of concern is that standards in information technology were not yet in line with national expectations. The school is drawing up an action plan in response to the whole report which will be shared with all parents in due course.

No date for the start of construction of new school buildings has yet been received, but it is still hoped that work might

commence sometime during the school's summer holidays.

The School's summer fair took place on the 4th of July. The poor weather didn't deter a large turnout of both children and parents. There was lots to do, and eat, and drink. If you missed it this year – next year should be equally good fun!

Finally, the school's web site (<http://edweb.camcnty.gov.uk/schools/cottenham>) is well worth a look.

Gareth Hayward, Chair of Governors

MILLENNIUM VIDEO

Are you or any of your family 'stars' in the video filmed during 1999 in villages across The Patch? Many village events are shown in this record of life in our community in the last year of the last millennium.

Our aim was to show as many faces as possible so that they will be remembered by this and future generations.

If you missed seeing its "World Premier" at the village college, the video is available at the Library. However, you can own your own copy and bore all your friends and relations on countless occasions. Orders may be placed at The Community Office, Cottenham Village College. Price £10.00

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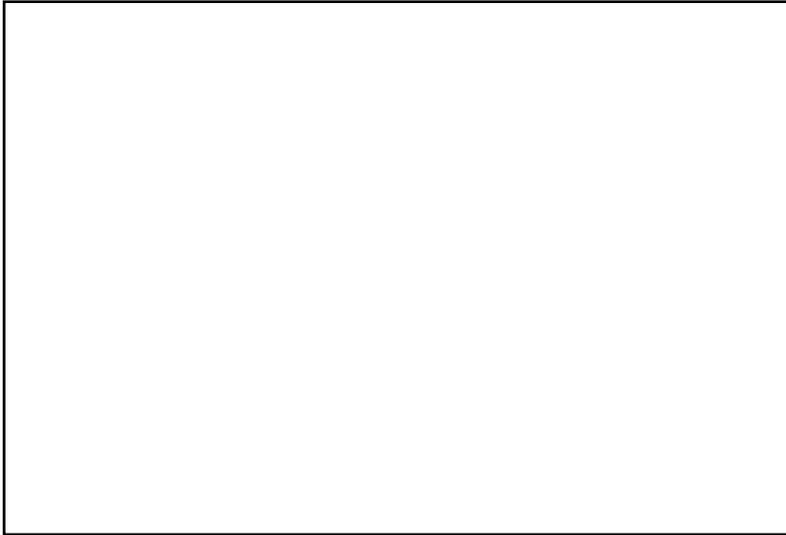
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YESTERYEAR ROAD RUN – THANK YOU!

Many thanks to you all for giving us great support for the Yesteryear Road Run, which took place on Sunday 16th April.



Unfortunately, due to the very wet weather prior to the Run we were unable to park on many of the village greens, but the sun shone on the day and the event was enjoyed by participants and spectators.

The money has now been counted and a magnificent total of £8,250 was raised, which beats last year's total of £7,250. The money will again be donated to MAGPAS to be used to purchase life-saving equipment.

Plans are already underway for next year's Run and we look forward to seeing you all again.

KORFBALL!

You've Seen The Posters – Do You Want The T-shirt? Never heard of it! Well read on:

Korfball is a lively and friendly mixed gender sport, best described as a cross between netball and basketball. Folklore has it that it was invented in Holland over thirty years ago by a school teacher who wanted a game that promoted co-operation between the sexes. Each team consists of eight players, four men and four women. Two of each gender occupying each half of the court. The aim is to score goals or t'KorfsT' by shooting the ball into a round basket which is on top of an eleven-foot pole, which is placed at the back of the court. Each side either attacks or defends in only one half of the court until two goals are scored, at which point roles are reversed! Confused? You will be, unless you see for yourself.

Phoenix Korfball Club trains (i.e. has a laugh, runs around a bit, then goes up the pub) every Monday night at Cambridge Regional College, King Hedges Road, at 9:00pm until 10:30pm. We are a very sociable club which runs three teams, one of which is in the lower division of the league. We cater for all abilities and although most of us are in our twenties or thirties, we also have a few teenagers who show us decrepit oldies up on a regular basis.

So if you played netball at school, or are tall (or not) or fancy doing a sport both you and your beloved can join in, or simply want to join in a sport with a good social side, come to our training sessions – First one is free!

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PARISH COUNCIL

While the last issue of the *Newsletter* was going to press, we were pleased to learn from the District Council of a positive result for local democracy. A company specialising in finding sites for mobile phone towers had applied for permission to put aerials on top of the drill tower at the Fire Station. With the nearest residential property only two metres away from the tower, you can imagine the concern of local residents, who mounted an energetic campaign against the scheme and raised a petition of over 450 signatures, and a letter of support from our local MP, James Paice. An earlier application to build a brand new tower had already been rejected. In spite of this, the Planning Department (the professionals at South Cambs) were telling us that, much as they would like to, there were no legal grounds on which they could automatically refuse the application. It would be up to the Planning Committee (a group of District Councillors from parishes across the area) to decide. The Parish Council took the unusual step of contacting every member of this Committee individually to seek their support, and were delighted to hear that the application had been turned down. So sometimes we are listened to!

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about one of our other problems – the Co-op corner. In spite of all the Parish Council's representations, the Police and Highways department have taken no effective action. The bollards that have been erected provide only a partial remedy, and motorists continue to blatantly ignore the parking restrictions. The Police turn a blind eye to the problem – patrols simply drive

past when there are several cars prominently parked on the double yellow lines. The inevitable has now happened: there has been an accident. Someone was knocked off his bicycle by a car at the corner – actually, a Parish Councillor. Fortunately he was not badly injured but it can only be a matter of time before there is a serious incident. We will continue to press for action, but we are powerless without the support of the Authorities.

And so to another “old faithful”, namely dog fouling. The Council has invested over £2,000 in Dog Litter bins, which will be installed at locations throughout the village, particularly in those areas where this problem has been regularly reported. These bins will be emptied as part of the routine domestic refuse collection. So now there is even less reason to let dogs foul the footpath! Having provided this facility, the Council will take an even dimmer view of anyone breaking the law. Still on this topic, the recreational area in Broad Lane has suffered particularly from fouling and loose dogs. At the end of June the 30mph sign in Broad Lane will be moved to a point beyond the entrance to the area. This will bring the pond and its surroundings within the “village envelope”, which means that the dog fouling laws will be enforceable and the Council has the right to control access. At that time dogs will be banned from the area to secure it as a peaceful haven for people and for wildlife.

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From goshawks to old geezers: the art of kidology

In this age of virtual reality it's becoming more difficult to distinguish between illusion and the real thing. Just ask Cottenham's pigeons. As Jasper Kay recorded in Bird Report (*Newsletter*, June/July), a dummy hawk is now perched menacingly atop the Conservative Club. So the pigeons tend to think twice before defecating on the roof.

Even Jasper, as he was sporting enough to admit, was taken in for a while by the dummy goshawk.

And take the case of Watchman Senior, who has sculpted his own (impressively lifelike) dummy heron to ward off live herons which were regularly calling at his garden pond for a spot of speculative fishing.

The ruse works well. The nearest that visiting herons now come to the pond is to circle the dummy guardedly, wondering whether this is a rival male or an opportunity for a bit of the old *voulez-vous*.

There's nothing new about this type of kidology of course, especially where birds are involved. Decoys have been used for centuries to lure dimmer members of the wild-fowl community into range of a punt gun.

Local authorities have long been exponents of kidology too. For example, when the council wants to bump up the rates by 15 per cent, it tells the local press some time in advance that an increase of 25 per cent is on the way.

Howls of protest ensue. Later the council announces that, through good housekeeping and judicious management, it has been able to contain the increase to just 15 per cent. The relief felt by rate-payers obscures the fact that a 15 per cent increase is perfectly outrageous. And we all imagine that our council must be doing a brilliant job.

A model of law and order

Despite assurances that Histon police make regular patrols through this village, truth is the long arm of the law ceased to reach as far as Cottenham when they took away our resident plod-on-a-bike and sold off the police station.

So, in the conspicuous absence of the real thing, why doesn't the parish council go virtual and deploy a few dummy police constables around our village? They'd be cheap to run and unlikely to draw all the usual wussy

complaints that the police customarily attract.

They'd almost certainly make a better fist of reducing vehicle speeds than the botched 'traffic calming measures' which degrade our High Street. Thieves might also be taken in. After all, anyone insensitive enough to steal another's belongings without guilt or remorse is probably also stupid enough to be distracted by an inflatable WPC.

Lying in wait in Landbeach

A variation on the cop kidology principle can be seen successfully at work in Landbeach. A resident of that village appears to be employed by Anglian Water, since an AW van is often parked in a driveway on the High Street.

But only the front end is visible to motorists approaching from either direction along the street. The white bonnet with fluorescent red stripes on the wings looks arrestingly like a police car lying in wait.

Whether this is deliberate or entirely serendipitous, it certainly works. Even if you've fallen for Landbeach's kidological speed-trap before, you still think 'oops, plod' and glance instinctively at your speedo.

On the street where you give

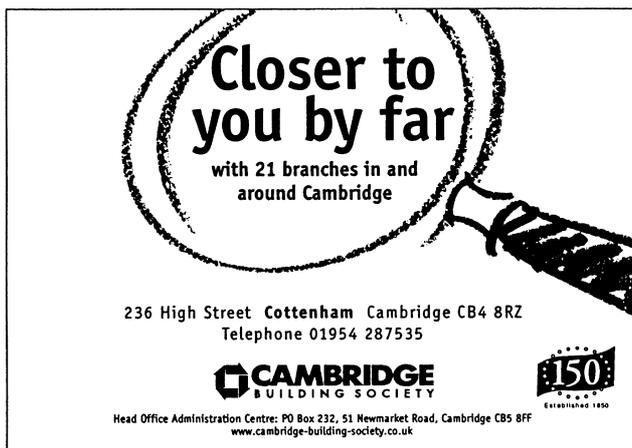
While enjoying a tourist's stroll through Exeter's city centre recently, we came upon an old geezer busking hymn tunes rather badly on a beat-up melodeon.

Now, the sight of old soldier reduced to playing a squeezebox in the street has always been a poignant one for Watchman — probably because he's all too aware that he might end up doing the same himself one of these days.

More distressingly, however, this busker was also apparently blind — and visibly unhappy. So out came the Watchman wallet. Only when the squeezer geezer said 'thanks mate' cheerily did the truth dawn. The pain-wracked expression and tightly shut eyes were merely contortions of ecstasy brought on by his own exquisite playing.

Or was it a bit of kidology? Hard to tell these days.

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RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL

I have recently returned from a three-month Raleigh International Expedition to Belize.

Having spent an exhausting 30-hour journey from London Gatwick, 120 ventures from all over the UK finally arrived at 4:00am to our welcome party of staff at Camp Oakley, where we were to be based for our training week. The next few days were an introduction to Raleigh, where we spent two nights in the jungle learning skills required to live safely there. Then, after a short visit back to camp Oakley, I was off to my first site, Belize Botanic Gardens, along with 12 others.

1st Phase – Belize Botanic Gardens

We arrived to find two sticks in the ground marking the beginning and end of the wall we were to build. When we asked to see some plans, Ken, our project partner, promptly drew what appeared to be a triangle in the sand. With this we set about building a limestone wall with varying degrees of success, but after a magical three weeks, swimming in the river at lunch times, a limestone wall with three buttresses (an extra thought) was completed on target.

2nd Phase – Tobacco Range Diving

We unloaded the boat, taking our stuff onto the white sands, and set about building a basha (which is a structure for our hammocks) under the coconut palms, hoping to avoid the falling coconuts that bounced, with an earth shuddering thud on the ground. After a week of training we were all BSAC qualified Club Divers and the Marine Science work could begin. So off we set to Coco Plum where we did our first dives without instructors, taking a 1m square slate down with us, which we would use to help us record the coral types, sediment and sponges.

Two weeks later we had surveyed 600m of reef for a Belize government agency which is continuing a long-term research project into the effects pollution maybe having on the reef. We also gained our Sports Diver qualification, enabling us to do some fantastic dives on the outer reef where we marvelled at the fish life.

3rd Phase – San Marcos School

In this phase, we contributed to the final stages of constructing a school. The walls were nearly finished, so some of us quickly climbed up onto the twigglet scaffolding, wobbling precariously as we positioned the final few breezeblocks. The veranda with its seven pillars quickly took shape, as did our roof. Then the plasterwork began, transforming our naked bricks into a real building.

After some extremely long days, balanced precariously on the rafters, illuminated only by a string of light bulbs and the moon, working late into the night, the school was completed ready for the Opening Ceremony. This was a memorable day attended by the Hon. Daniel Silva, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and Hon. Coral Hyde, Minister of Education and Sport. A fantastic project finished with pouring rain, burst water pipes and songs from the local children.

However, a completed three classroom school, will start in September; and, for some it will be their first taste of education.

So, thank you all for your sponsorship last year making it possible for me to be part of these fantastic projects. It enabled me to see and help another nation, and provided me with an experience I can will remember for ever.

Chris Smith

HIGHGATE FARM EXISTING AD

BIRD REPORT

When I was a boy, I occasionally went nesting with a friend. We hunted for birds' nests and at times, I'm ashamed to say, we took an egg, blew it, and started a collection. Now, I recognize that many birds deliberately chose to nest and breed in secret and this has to be respected. In our garden it is often only in winter that we find the, by then, deserted nests.

But as I write this report at the end of June, there is ample evidence of breeding. Our garden is full of young starlings, blackbirds and thrushes all waiting to be fed by their hard working parents.

Many people will have seen the young moorhens on the college pond and the young wagtails nearby. I was invited to see three young tawny owls in Histon Road and a family of barn owls has been seen on the Twentypence Road.

In Church Lane there are blackcaps, willow warblers, swallows, dunnocks, whitethroats and this year there are the less common grasshopper warblers. But has anyone identified the strange birds seen here – a little larger than a sparrow with a red head and black wings? I have not seen it, but I am puzzled.

I am also puzzled by the lack of house martins' and swifts' nests. They don't seem to be nesting in the usual places on the High Street and at the Village College. There are plenty of these birds around but where are they nesting? Information please.

The Long Drove lagoon has its usual delights: lapwings, red-shank, coots, moorhens, herons, mallards, shelduck, canada geese and mute swans. The sound of these birds on a summer's day is a real treat.

I am surprised that so few people in the village know Long Drove. At certain places you can see Denny Abbey, Stretham Mill, Haddenham Mill and Ely Cathedral, but not all at once! It is an excellent road for walking jogging, cycling, and of course for birding.

Jasper Kay, June 21st 2000.

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THANK YOU

It was a great honour to be re-elected in May to represent Cottenham for a further 4 years on South Cambs District Council, and I should like to thank residents for entrusting me with this task.

Once elected, of course, a councillor's job is to be available to everyone in the ward, regardless of their views or how they voted, so I hope that, if there are any matters with which you feel I might be able to help, you won't hesitate to get in touch with me. I'll always do my best to try and help.

I can be contacted at home, 20 Rampton Road, Cottenham Tel. 01954 251377, E-mail: rex@rcollinson.fsnet.co.uk, or at my 'surgery' in the Communal Room at Franklin Gardens from 5:30 to 6:30 pm on the third Friday of each month, except August.

Many thanks to Cottenham residents and the Parish Council for all the help you have given me over the past years as your District Councillor.

Local plan inquiry

This is now under way. Its purpose is to enable an independent planning inspector, appointed by the government, to look critically at the council's proposals for planning policies and development and to enable objectors to put their point of view to him. For Cottenham, the council is proposing that there should be no additional development outside the present developed area, but several objections have been made for the inspector's consideration, proposing that additional areas of land should be developed. Two of these objections, relating to land north and north-west of Oakington Road and opposite Brookfields Centre, Twentypence Road, will be heard in open session on Tuesday 12 September at 10:00am and 2:00pm respectively. Observers from the public may attend but cannot participate. Sessions will be held at South Cambs Hall, Hills Road, Cambridge.

The whole Inquiry is due to end at the beginning of March 2001, and it will then take the Inspector several months to produce his final report and recommendations. Further details of the Inquiry Programme can be found on the South Cambs Council website, at www.scambs.gov.uk.

Resident participation

The council is seeking to involve residents and tenants, in areas where there is council housing, more closely in decisions affecting their area. There has been a Residents' Association in Coolidge Gardens for some three years now and it has achieved a number of improvements. Recently meetings have been held with residents from Stevens Close and Victory Way, with a view to encouraging similar involvement. The hope is that residents will become more involved in decisions which affect them and that agreements will be drawn up outlining what the council will do and what standards will be set. Residents in the areas concerned will be informed of future meetings. If you live there, why not join in? Eventually it is intended that there will be similar schemes throughout the district wherever the council owns a significant amount of housing.

Histon road speed reduction

Officials from the Highway Authority and their contractors have started considering options for this scheme. However, there will need to be local consultation before a scheme is finalized and work cannot start until after the renewal of the water main in Histon Road, which may well take until October to complete.

Bus Pass Refunds

The next Parish Council refund session for residents with concessionary bus passes will take place from 4-6pm at the Communal Room, Coolidge Gardens Sheltered Bungalows on Friday 29 September. A refund can be claimed once during the 'life' of each bus pass. Bring your pass with you if you want to claim.

Land adjacent to 218 High Street

The District Council has decided to purchase the area of open land beside the footpath from the High Street to Franklin Gardens from the new owners of the former Cambridgeshire Acre offices for the sum of just £1! The committee of the former Wayside Garden will be invited to make a garden there, should they wish to do so.

*Rex Collinson
District Councillor*

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Beauteous white hawthorn blossom,
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Glistening fresh green willow leaves,
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The flowers of the cherry,
And almond too I think,
Polka dot the skyline,
With vivid shades of pink.

Crab apple trees along the road,
Like blobs of Raspberry jello,
And Forsythia bushes here and there,
With their flowers of cadmium yellow.

Rolling clouds that hide the sun,
Except for ribbons on their shoulders,
Chestnut flowers standing proud,
Like rows of little soldiers.

A sad old cuckoo, having a rest,
Whose nest is a choice of many,
I saw all these, on my way home,
And it didn't cost a penny.

R. J. Carpenter

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!

R S MEMORIALS

ALL SAINTS' HALL

To hire the main hall or the Tenison or Samuel Rooms, please telephone The Parish Office, Cottenham Parish Church on Cottenham 251137 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

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WHAT IS THE COTTENHAM MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME?

The Mobile Warden Scheme in Cottenham was established to provide assistance and support to those elderly members of our village who still want to live at home, but need a helping hand. The scheme helps to preserve the individual's independence, which is so very important to us all, especially as we grow older.

The scheme is a registered charity and is operated by a management committee which meets every three months, with the chairman, secretary, treasurer and members being drawn from the local community. The scheme is staffed by the mobile warden and a relief warden whose role is to cover the warden for illness and holidays. This guarantees the continuity of the service provided. The Mobile Warden Scheme is especially important for those who are house bound.

The Scheme aims to ensure that each member is contacted by telephone daily and receives at least one home visit each week. The visits are carefully co-ordinated so they do not "double up" with those of carers, hairdressers, Social Services, etc.

The Cottenham Mobile Warden is Madeleine Bird. Her duties are varied and tasks may include:

- local shopping, collecting pensions, collecting prescriptions
- odd jobs of light housework, simple food preparation, making drinks, feeding pets

- assisting with the checking of gas and electricity bills and other correspondence

- on request, researching, helping and advising on whatever matter concerns the member, without intruding upon their privacy.

The Mobile Warden Scheme is a community team effort, with all those involved working together to serve the needs of the village.

Membership is either FULL or ASSOCIATE. The associate member receives occasional visits. Regular contact is increased when their families or carers go on holiday. The knowledge that the service of the warden is available reassures the families of the associate members – they can then enjoy their holiday knowing that daily contact will be made.

New members have usually joined the scheme through recommendation of other members, their doctor or district nurse. The Social Services are aware of this scheme.

If you would like to join the scheme or know of someone who would benefit from a helping hand, please contact Madeleine Bird on 01954 251182. She will be pleased to give you further information.

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The Quest – by Walter J Adams

Continued from issue 57...

Having taken Jill out, Peter felt that on meeting Lydia the next morning, and duly admiring her hair style, he ought to invite her out for an evening, jokingly suggesting that otherwise Jill and Angela would have received privileged attention. (Peter remembered afterwards that he had read, or been told, that to gain a mother's favour one had to admire and be kind to her children; and to gain the favour of a single woman all one needed to do was admire her new hair style).

Lydia was some eighteen months older than her sister Jill and, as Peter expected, she had a totally different personality. She had great physical charm and possessed a wit that, at first, Peter found amusing, even clever, but by the end of the evening it had become somewhat of a mannerism. She was also a good mimic and could tell a funny story.

In her dancing she was less exuberant than Jill – whose display had verged on exhibitionism – but again, whilst enjoying her physical charms, Peter found that he was not excited or moved by them, which he felt rather worrying, if not bewildering.

Like the evening with Jill, it was enjoyable but not memorable, which Peter began to think, as he drove back to the Belmont after seeing Lydia home, was probably his fault rather than theirs.

On Angela's return from London he had hoped he might see her on her own, but for several days she was unavailable, so Peter reverted to tramping the trails, although they did meet for a whole afternoon when she was doing the weekly shop for the playgroup. Peter found it quite enjoyable; normally when forced to shop he went into a trance – it was just a degree above sitting in a dentist's chair. Angela knew what she wanted, where to find it, was decisive and efficient, and so the couple of hours in the various shops went by very quickly, giving them time to have a coffee together. Angela's company, he found, was both stimulating and soothing, he would have shopped the whole day through.

As they walked back to his car, with the shopping filling the boot, for the first time Peter noticed an announcement of an orchestral concert by a leading London orchestra.

He decided he ought to invite all the 'Three Graces', but only Angela was interested. They had met that morning as the crocodile of four-year-olds were wending their way with the 'Three Graces' to the Beach. Peter decided on the spur of the moment to join them and he helped to play with and amuse the children until it was time for them to return.

Angela had decided it would be best if they met up at the Concert Hall, to save Peter the fag of picking her up, as the Concert Hall was near them both.

During the concert, which was the first Peter had attended since Jean's death, he was disconcerted to find himself absent-mindedly wanting to hold Angela's hand, something he had always done when attending a concert or theatre show with Jean.

Afterwards, Angela suggested they walk home, rather than have a taxi, and as it was still rather warm, in fact, close con-

sidering they were so near the sea, Angela suggested walking along the sea walk, a longer way round but more pleasant.

They passed an attractive old pub which looked so inviting they entered and had a pleasant, relaxing drink talking about the music they had heard. They left to continue their walk to Angela's house. Angela said: "I was pleasantly surprised to see you this morning, and with the way you got on so well with the children." "That was easy", Peter said jokingly. "I'm about their mental age." And suddenly and more seriously he added, "And, maybe, it is because I have a small four-year-old daughter of my own. I'm a widower, my wife died suddenly of cancer six months ago. With the help of my housekeeper I have looked after her ever since. At the moment my mother-in-law is with her, so with two women fussing over her she won't have time to miss me – in anycase, I phone everyday."

"I didn't want to leave her, but with so many telling me I needed a holiday I decided to come here – it is only a couple of hours drive from home, should I be needed."

There was a brief silence.

"Are you enjoying your holiday?" Angela asked. "Yes, I am, very much and particularly since I met you on my first day, and then your friends."

They continued on their way, only the noisy cackling of a pair of Egyptian geese breaking the silence. The moon shone brightly over the sea and the stars twinkled theatrically; with just the faintest sound – more an impression – of the sea moving in its mysterious fashion, timeless and enchanting, even haunting.

Peter, absorbing this atmosphere of the eternal, found himself silent with nothing to say. After a while he thought he ought to say something and suddenly remembered he had never asked Angela about her trip to London.

"Did you have a good time in London?" he asked. "No, not really. I went to see my 'boyfriend' – he is a first cousin of Lydia and Jill; tall, dark and handsome, clever, good-natured – but immature and sometimes dull – worse, he makes me feel as if I am his mother! I didn't really want to see him, but I had promised to do so, and I didn't want to upset my friends."

"His parents are nice, and they like me – but it wouldn't work out – we don't think alike. So I told him that our friendship would have to be put 'on hold' for a time. He is in his last year at university and wants to do well. In anycase, I'm supposed to be returning to Australia in October. He wasn't too upset – the Winter sports season will soon be starting and he is good at games."

Again there was some minutes of silence. Peter was thinking about the 'Three Graces': he infinitely preferred Angela, in fact, he liked her very much.

By now they had reached the front door. Angela began searching in her handbag for the keys. Peter stood aside, immobile, not knowing what to say, or even what might be expected of him.

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“Well”, said Angela, having inserted the key and turning round to face him. “Are you going to kiss me ‘goodnight’, or do I have to kiss you?”

Peter would have had to have a heart like Stoneburgh not to have felt moved; he simply melted as Angela put her arms around him. As she released him, she whispered.

“Perhaps we can go for a drive in your car – it’s Sunday – we could go and visit your Betty.”

Giving Peter a final hug she went indoors. Peter walked back to his hotel in a pleasant haze. His holiday had become a quest which had not only begun but was well under way, even progressing favourably. Tomorrow, he must remember to bring his snapshots of Betty, and secondly try to find a map of Australia, if only to find out exactly where Melbourne was.

As he lay in bed trying to sleep Peter found himself thinking of Jean. Had their positions been reversed, he knew that he would have been happy for some good person to take care of her and Betty, and he knew that she would have wished the same for him.

The next morning Peter met Angela hoping that their feelings for each other were at last evening’s pitch.

The door was opened by Angela with Lydia and Jill framed in the background, pretending (he thought) to look incurious. Peter uttered a restrained ‘Hallo’, including all ‘Three Graces’, adding jokingly, “I’ll bring her back safely.”

They walked to the car and waved to the sisters as they drove off.

When they had reached the open road beyond Stoneburgh, Peter said: “Lydia and Jill seemed quite attentive.”

“Oh, they are just curious, putting two and two together. We chatted over breakfast about last night’s concert and just before you arrived I told them that you had offered to take me out for the day somewhere interesting.”

“I’ve brought some photographs of Betty, they are in the parcel shelf in front of you. She enjoys having her picture taken.”

“She’s beautiful” said Angela, “but not at all like you.”

“I know – she takes after her mother – although my mother-in-law insists she can see something of me in her. I’ve telephoned to say we’ll be arriving about lunchtime – you’ll like my mother-in-law – she’s a nice person.”

The journey seemed to go both slowly and quickly, with Angela finding the scenery delightful, and at one particular panorama of rolling hills, with their hedgerow patterns, she begged him to pull in for a moment. They got out of the car together and walked up the uneven grass verge to stand at a farm entrance gate, Peter holding out his hand to help Angela over the humps and hollows, and pointing at the various features of a landscape he knew so well.

Having absorbed the scene they turned to go back to the car, finding themselves looking into each other’s eyes. A beautiful smile blossomed on Angela’s face and Peter knew that Angela wanted him as much as he wanted her. Hand-in-hand they went back to the car.

Peter drove on, unaware until this moment, that he had been engaged in a quest, one which had ended almost as soon as it had begun – for he realised that in accepting his invitation to dine with him, having just met for the first time, Angela had chosen him, rather than the reverse – hence her visit to London.

He was now excitedly looking forward to the moment when he would introduce Angela to Betty and her grandmother. He knew that she would receive their warm approval, as he was certain that his beloved Jean would have approved.

He hadn’t proposed – but then that ‘look’ had said everything.

VILLAGE DESIGN GROUP

The invitation to ‘walkabout’ the new housing developments of Cottenham went out before vehicle access to Bullfinch Way and its name plate had disappeared. The road is now landscaped and access is by footpath! Nonetheless a couple of dozen people found the temporary cardboard sign and spent a sultry Monday evening on 19th June looking at Cottenham’s new houses. The group was under the guidance of Mac Dowdy, well known to most residents as an architectural historian and media personality. Those attending included Jo Rose, the consultant employed in 1993 by the Countryside Commission to start us off, four South Cambs District Council officers, a South Cambs District Councillor, Parish Councillors, Design Group members and residents of the new estates. It is now six years since the Cottenham Village Design Statement was first published and approved as supplementary planning guidance. The walkabout was intended as an opportunity to reflect on how and whether the Design Statement has affected developments and whether or not it has been to the good.

Since the Cottenham Design Statement was printed, hundreds of other villages throughout England have developed their own guidelines using the Countryside Commission’s pack which includes Cottenham’s statement. The recommendations are taken seriously by architects, builders and planners. Design statements are now recognised as vital in improving the sustainable development of rural areas.

Many positive details in design and traditional village style have been adopted. However, few houses are endowed with the fine chimney pots for which Cottenham is renowned, and fewer still have a genuine fireplace attached to them. Garages are sometimes discreetly hidden but too often command dominance along the street line at the expense of attractive houses. What a pity that the traditional Cottenham combination of workshop and residential development is absent (despite the Design Group’s efforts), as too is the lack of a village pub on the charming green at the other side of the moat in Tenison Manor. It is hoped that the area beside the

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ditch on the edge of Brenda Gautrey way will become a pleasant pathway around the estate.

Those new residents who joined the walkabout had positive feelings. They chose to live in the village both because it is convenient and they like it here. They are pleased with how the developers have incorporated the sites into the village, with footpath access, landscaping and imaginative layouts reflecting traditional linear arrangements of houses, picking out those features which are particularly characteristic of the village. Street lighting and 'street furniture' in general could have been thought out more sensitively and it is hoped that future developments will benefit from the results of the Cottenham experience. Cottenham residents are also occupying some of the new houses, and this "seeding" should be beneficial for all.

Overall, the feeling of the group was that the Design Statement has been clearly influential and beneficial, and that a partnership of the County, District and Parish Councils with the Design Group can lead to yet further improvement in future design.

The Design Group will be arranging an open meeting to which everyone is invited. There may also be a meeting with the developers. If you would like a copy of the Design Statement please contact a member of the committee who

will be delighted to provide you with one. If you would care to join the group you will be most welcome. Membership is £3 per year.

Contacts: Mike Smith 01954 251915, Bill Miller 01954 252101 or Liz Cook 01954 251667

HEALTHWATCH by David Bradley

The best cure for insomnia

If counting sheep is getting you down, then using your bed just for sex and sleep could be the solution to your insomnia, according to Canadian research. It's a much better alternative than popping sleeping pills, the researchers say.

Many people read, smoke and eat in bed so they don't always associate being in bed with being asleep. Chronic insomniacs among the elderly especially can benefit from being taught to treat their bed as a place to enjoy sex and sleep and so break bad sleeping patterns.

So, tonight switch off the light and snuggle up under the sheets for a good night's kip.

David Bradley is a freelance science and medical writer and can be contacted through his Elemental Discoveries website at: www.sciencebase.com

REFLECTIONS – by Moyra A Borg

What am I going to tell you about today? Can I make you laugh? Probably not. Life is something I laugh at and I suppose telling you about things the way I see them makes you laugh too sometimes. Laughter is so good for us. It has a good physical effect. It is always sad to meet someone who rarely laughs or who only laughs with cynicism. I feel sorry for people like this. No amount of worldly wealth or possessions can make them happy – in fact the happiest people on this earth often do not have two pennies to rub together!

I love observing people. Where I work in the evening, the cacophony of the place means that we really ought to wear earplugs. Hardly anyone wears them, but I always do. They are provided free of charge. Having earplugs in makes me notice a lot more visually than I normally would. It is a sort of eerie way of knowing what it must be like not to be able to hear. People's body language is a lot more noticeable. I do not do it cruelly but I notice the way people walk differently when they are doing different things.

In my taxi driving days, when I used to stand in the arrivals halls of airports waiting to meet customers from abroad, I often used to think that it must be very similar to the gateway to heaven or the other world we go to when we have left this one. People of all ages and nationalities all walked through, most of them looking bewildered and dazed.

I am now doing so many jobs that I am either at work or asleep. Oh dear! You have heard me moan about this before now haven't you – and I said that work wasn't the be-all and end-all of life. Any time I do have spare, I thoroughly enjoy

myself – meeting up with friends and having pub lunches and suppers. I know it is spoiling myself but there is the advantage of having neither to cook nor wash-up. Neither job really appeals to me. My friends all say 'What you really need Moyra is a MAN!' – ah yes – a man who likes housework, cooking, washing-up, grass-cutting AND ironing! I have not ironed anything myself for the past year ... yes we have noticed the crinkled look recently. The truth is that I do not look in mirrors – and so I am not aware of the horrific dishevelled image I present to the world. I could say that I am extra tired since my brain haemorrhage. I think that I am – even though it is now three years since that happened! The truth is that I was living in the most horrendous muddle before that – only now everything is ten times worse! I do not like living in the mess, it's just that I do not have the energy or organisation to sort things out.

I will not accept help, so actually, I am my own worst enemy. I think my emotional age is about four years old. This is quite amusing in the short term, but not in the long. Small children who see me eating a bag of crisps stare with a disbelieving look which seems to say: 'Why has that big kid got a bag and I haven't?' I grimace back at them and then they sometimes cry. Oh yes, I am very good with small children! I think though that the most moving experience of my life was when I visited a friend who had just given birth to a baby girl. The baby was only about 10 hours old when I saw her. 'Hold her, hold her' my friend said. 'No I can't' I said. 'Yes you can!' So I did hold her. She is now aged four and is learning all of life's dirty tricks, but does it all with such a sunny smile you can't be angry.

Memories – by Ian Johnston

As I turned into Broad Lane it began to rain. A cold, misty drizzle that condensed into droplets around my hair and ran down my neck. I flicked up the collar of my coat in a futile attempt at protection. At least the forecasters had got it right for a change. Grey and miserable; the almost perfect accompaniment to my mood.

At the turning to the industrial estate I stopped. I stared at the empty, lifeless units, their Sunday inactivity a stark contrast to the normal humdrum of the week. The harsh, leaden lines of the buildings seemed to accentuate the threatening nature of the sky. I frowned. In all the years that I had walked the same route I had never really noticed what the estate looked like. Now they demanded attention.

With a sigh I carried on, past the new housing estate with its rows of pristine dwellings that almost gleamed with their newness. The bushes along the side of the road were bursting with deep green vitality, the new season well under way. White and pink frosted hawthorn entwined with sloe and wild rose, the fat buds straining to contain pure pink petals. I usually loved this time of year, yet today seemed empty somehow.

Once I reached the pond I followed the path to the bench on the furthest side and sat down, huddling inside my coat as best I could. Almost every day for the last two years, since the pond had been dug and landscaped, we had come to this same spot. I would sit and watch while Vic played along the water's edge. Looking at the shimmering water I could picture her as she padded around, sniffing the tussocks of grass and glancing at me from time to time to make sure I was still there.

I had bought Vic as a pup from one of the local farmers nine years earlier. I thought about the first time I had held her. A struggling bundle of black and white fur, full of boundless energy and sharp, white teeth. Ever since I was a child I had wanted an old English sheep dog, and the day I collected her was one of the happiest of my life. I smiled as the memories drifted through my mind. The day she had eaten my new pair of designer Italian shoes. The times, when she was fully grown, she had leaped up at me in excitement and knocked me over. How she resembled a little panda when she was young.

Now she was gone, the victim of relentless age. Mercifully it had been quick, but the image of her on the vet's steel table would haunt me for a long time. I buried my head in my hands as I remembered her gentle eyes and the final whimper as she sank softly into sleep. The tears trickled down my cheeks. God, I missed her.

At that moment the clouds broke and a shaft of sunlight stabbed through the gloom. Brightness and warmth enveloped me and I welcomed its comforting radiance. I wiped the tears away on the back of my hand and stood up.

“Come on, Jasper. Let's go.”

Jasper barked enthusiastically and leaped to his feet, running around in a circle before dashing off up the path. I threw his favourite red ball and he hared off after it, making me laugh as he collided with a bush in his eagerness to catch his toy. He reminded me so much of Vic. But then again, she was his mother after all.

NEWS FROM THE FEN EDGE PATCH

The footpaths in Cottenham are something of a jungle during the early part of the summer, when the vegetation is very lush. But once the cutter has been along the length of the Lode, in July, the walking is very pleasant. So, if you haven't explored the network of footpaths along the river banks and across Fenland, now would be a good time to go.

There are guided walks further afield during the Summer School week, August 7–11th. Jasper Kay will be leading day walks in different areas, starting from Cottenham Village College. You can join him for the whole week, or on convenient days. Contact Cottenham Village College, 01954 288944.

Our week-end away will be based at Streatley, a pleasant hostel in the Thames valley, which offers lovely riverside and beechwoods for walking. October 6–8th. Please book through David Thomas, Cottenham 200074

In the Spring, we had an excellent day trip to the Dome. A coach full of students from the Village College and Over 60s shared a day of mutual enjoyment. We spent the first part of the day in mixed age groups, visiting zones which we thought would offer good interaction between the two generations. The midday show in the main arena was a spectacular performance for all of us. During the afternoon, we were free to visit zones of our choice. Despite the rather poor publicity that has been given to the Dome, I felt sure that everyone in our party had experienced a very special day.

During the summer, we have a number of smaller projects – a combined dance and movement morning, visits to Hemingford Grey Manor and Flag Fen, and a local history workshop.

On Thursday, August 17th, we are planning a trip to the Romany Museum in Spalding. The minibus will leave from Cottenham Village College with a mixed group of adults and teenagers, for a day looking at traveller customs, romany wagons, and even sampling romany cooking! In the autumn, we are planning an Environmental workshop. Last October, we had a memorable day learning (and playing) about the rain forests of South America. If you would be interested in a similar hands-on experience – on quite a different environmental subject – please contact me at the College. Most Award events are low cost or free.

All enquiries to Jenny Kay, 01954 288944

Summer School

There may still be some vacancies in our summer school courses, so if you find that you are looking for something special to do during the week of August 7th–11th, you could try contacting the College to see if there are any places that would appeal to you. Our summer school has been extremely popular for six years now; it combines excellent learning with a pleasant atmosphere and delicious lunches.

Ring Cottenham Village College, 01954 288944 (mornings only).

TALES FROM THE WHITE HORSE

When we first came to Cottenham in 1967 it was a farming community. The main crops were apples, soft fruit and flowers (peonies and pyrethums). Opposite to us was a transport business which took all local produce to Covent Garden to sell. Asparagus, a great luxury in those days and very expensive because of its short season, was grown in almost every garden. I once mentioned that I had never tasted asparagus and I was swamped with it as all my customers brought some in for me (and I loved it). I was also given masses of strawberries.

One lunchtime – we had only been in the White Horse a few days – a customer appeared in the open doorway of the public bar. He stood there, looked across at me, pointed a long finger and said “I seen you afore!” He came across to the bar and said again, “I seen you afore!” This was Levi (as I found out later). He worked for one of the local growers, starting very early in the morning and visiting one of the local pubs every lunchtime. He always wore a brown trilby hat pushed to the side of his head. I don’t think I ever saw him without his hat.

His preferred drink was a Gold Label (barley wine) which was sold in bottles (1/3rd pint known as a ‘nip’). The advertising message of a Gold Label was “Strong as a double whisky but half the price” (A double whiskey in 1967 was 5/- (25p), a Gold Label 2/3d (11p)). So, on this particular morning, Levi bought his first Gold Label, looked at me thoughtfully, and said again “I know I seen you afore”. Two or three Gold Labels later he announced, “I seen you in Colchester”. We had worked in Colchester when we were first married – at the Albert Hotel on the bypass. But no, Levi had never been in the Albert Hotel. Another Gold Label and Levi said “I seen you on North Hill, with your husband, looking in a shop window”. And he probably did!! Every time Levi came in the pub he told the story again.

Levi loved his Gold Labels and when he was feeling happy he would sing a little song, and when he was really happy he would dance a little jig and play the mouth-organ. One day, when he was extremely happy he grabbed another customer and danced him all round the bar. He kept the mouth-organ firmly clamped between his teeth and his hat well down the side of his head. He was always the same, always good natured – always kind, bringing me strawberries and raspberries or whatever was in season. He loved a little bet on the horses. He always wore his brown trilby and told me he’d “seen me afore”. And then, one day, many years later, the Brewery, in its wisdom, discontinued Gold Label and Levi stopped visiting us.

As we got near to our first Christmas we became very busy. We cooked on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings as these were the only evenings that people came out. On Saturdays we would be packed out as we only had the small saloon bar – six tables – to serve. So people would queue all across the floor and sit on spare chairs to reserve tables. It often got very hectic – and towards Christmas busier than ever, and there were only the two of us to do everything.

We also inherited, from the previous tenants, a Christmas Club. People paid a small sum into the Club each week and

drew it out at Christmas to buy their Christmas liquor and cigarettes (everyone smoked in 1967 and at Christmas you could buy boxes of cigarettes in 50’s and 100’s which was considered a very nice Christmas present). There were no supermarkets, no off-licenses nearby, no local shops had a license, so everything alcoholic was bought in a pub and the carryout sales were a very considerable part of our business. Come Christmas our customers left their orders with us and on the day of the Christmas club pay-out the floor behind the bar was piled high with boxes and crates. The back of the bar was covered with raffle prizes and we had a wonderful evening and took lots of money.

All the shops closed Christmas Eve lunchtime and stayed closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and some of them the day after Boxing Day also – but after that everyone went back to work. If you didn’t order everything in advance there was nothing left in the shops by Christmas Eve.

That first year we had bought a large piece of beef on the bone for our Christmas dinner. We picked it up the day before Christmas Eve together with the meat for that evening’s trade. We were so busy that evening we sold out but still had customers wanting to eat, so Warren cut our Christmas joint into steaks and sold it. Christmas Eve morning we went to the butchers and, guess what, he had nothing left! So it looked like eggs for Christmas dinner! But on Christmas Eve evening a young, newly married couple we had become friendly with came into the bar and they were not looking forward to Christmas because they had not got their own home – so we said come and spend Christmas with us – and they had a turkey!

Rosalie Dunnico

BLOOMIN’ MARVELOUS!

Cottenham’s Open Gardens Day on Sunday 2nd July was well supported. Between 350 and 400 residents and their guests walked round the ten gardens on view, and approximately 350 teas were served at the three locations – apparently some people had TWO teas.

Many visitors commented favourably on the free entry policy, saying it was a refreshing change. They then proceeded to spend generously on the various stalls selling cakes, plants, books and other goods on sale, and the proceeds from these were given to the charities chosen by participating garden owners.

Altogether it was a pleasant, trouble-free afternoon, and those who turned out enjoyed themselves enough to ask if this was to be repeated next year. Well, maybe...if so, perhaps more garden owners will be persuaded to take part in what turned out to be a truly "village" event. My thanks to everybody who took part.

Bridget Walker, 11 Ivatt Street, Cottenham.

EXPLORING ROMAN BRITAIN

The Cottenham Branch of the WEA has, for several years, run some very successful courses on Tuesday mornings at the College on topics ranging from astronomy to pre-history and, most recently, oak and country furniture.

From Wednesday 27th September we will be adding an evening course, also held at the College, from 7:45pm to 9:15pm. We are very fortunate in having Alison Taylor as our tutor. Alison is a well known archaeologist and author, who will help us to discover the impact of the Romans on Britain by studying and handling archaeological remains.

The course fee will be £25.00. You will be able to enrol at the College's Enrolment evening, or at the first meeting of the course.

For any further information, please contact Liz Milway on (01954) 250039.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE ORCHARDS GONE?

In a joint initiative, the Village Design Group, the Footpath Group and the Wildlife Group are planning a 'village environment audit'. Inspired by a talk given in the village by Sharon Hearle, Green Belt Project Officer, the idea is to survey Cottenham's landscape features – such as hedgerows, trees, lodes, ponds, fields, greens. The aim is to identify what is important in terms of ecology and local landscape character, to make these local features better known and to explore ways by which they can be protected, conserved and improved.

We are looking for help from other local groups and from anyone in the village with expertise and/or enthusiasm relevant to the project – if that means you, please contact Andrew Withers on Cottenham 252173.

Cambridge Cabinet Makers NEW ADVERT

Consider the disabled

As one of Cottenham's disabled people, I use an electric pavement scooter to get around, and I therefore resent the parking of cars on pavements. In my case I am most often affected by cars at the Rampton Road end of Lambs Lane, but it also happens elsewhere. This is also dangerous for my father-in-law when he visits, since he is a fragile 91-year old and registered blind. I wish people would think!

Anyway, not much I can do, but my husband says he will fit some long sharpened screws to the sides of my scooter, then I can be like a modern day Boadicea, and if people find their car damaged – well ...

Barbara Ashton-Reader

.....

The Churchyard, Cottenham Parish Church

I write to apologise for the state of the grass over recent months in the churchyard. Many will know that we suffered a serious theft earlier in the year when all our grass-cutting machinery was stolen. There were many comments, including a formal complaint from the Parish Council, so perhaps I may explain the difficulties we had.

As soon as the theft was noticed a claim was made on our insurance company. There was a delay while our claim was considered. Thankfully, both their representative and the Police considered that we could not have done more to protect our property. However, the Parochial Church Council members decided that as professional thieves were involved, it was pointless to simply replace the equipment in the storage space without additional protection. There was then a further delay as the replacement machinery our insurance company approved was not available in this country as the theft had taken place at the beginning of the grass-cutting season. However, we used this time to take additional preventative measures. Unfortunately once in use, the new mower broke down several times, presumably due to the length of grass it had to cope with.

We did consider employing professional grass-cutters, but decided this was not an option as we believed those who visit the churchyard regularly would wish us to give our usual care for headstones. What we did was to hire equipment for several weekends, although the very wet months of April and May certainly curtailed some very determined efforts by numerous people to get the grass under control.

Thankfully all the people who have spoken with me have been understanding and appreciative of the efforts made to

**LETTERS
to the Editors**

rectify the situation. By the time of this publication, we should have the situation well under control and the area back to one of the best kept churchyards in Cambridgeshire.

I would like to thank the many members of the village who gave so many evenings and weekends to grass-cutting and all who showed their concern and appreciation.

Ian Friars

Cottenham Rectory

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Dear Sirs,

On behalf of Cambridgeshire Library Service, I would like to express our thanks, through the *Newsletter*, to the members of Cottenham Gardeners Club who tend the Library flowerbeds and for providing the tree on our grass. Their hard work and thoughtful planting really enhance the site.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new residents to the village and hope that they will come and use the Library. We lend books, tapes and videos and facilities include a fax machine, photocopier, access to the Internet and bus timetables and other useful information sources.

The Library is situated in Margett Street and our opening times are listed below. Do come and visit us – you don't have to pay to join!

Helen Richardson
Supervisor, Cottenham Library

Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 2:30pm–5:00pm and 6:30pm–8:30pm
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 10:00am–12noon, 2:30pm–5:00pm and 6:30pm–8:30pm
Saturday: 10:00am–12noon



R.J. CARPENTER, M.I.M.I.
Ralph's Workshop
Unit 11, Watson's Yard
Cottenham
Tel: (01954) 250502
**MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICING
AND REPAIRS
M.O.T. WORK**

Dear Sir,

In spite of double-yellow lines, vehicles are almost always parked across the wide path which affronts the Co-op Stores, its loading entrance and adjacent properties. These block the path and pedestrians, prams and wheel-chairs are grossly inconvenienced and exposed to danger.

Recently, I was approaching the Co-op on my cycle from the direction of the Post Office when a car, parked at the entrance to the Co-op goods loading passage, suddenly drove off in my direction and collided with my cycle. I was forced to scramble of my cycle and I was fortunate that I was not badly injured. The driver stopped briefly but then drove off quickly without checking whether or not I was injured.

I am writing in an attempt to prevent a serious accident resulting from vehicles wrongly parked on this dangerous corner. Would vehicle drivers please show some consideration towards other road users by using the car park at the rear of the shop and please DO NOT PARK ON THE PATH.

Hugh K. Gautrey
Parish Councillor

.....

Dear Sir,

Isn't it disappointing that, in a publication designed to promote OUR village, the Watchman felt it necessary to take time to evangelise the hostelrys of villages other than our own. After a poignant article on our own, reducing, pubs and the conclusion 'use them or lose them', it angers me that Watchman then reviews a pub in Oakington. We too have brilliant little pubs and you'll be hard pushed to beat the Jolly Millers for food, value, and great beer; plus you don't need a designated driver or a taxi to get there. Perhaps we can expect to see a glowing report on this pub soon? If Watchman used the villages' facilities rather than roaming abroad then he/she too might be less keen to see drunks lounging on our public benches. I, and many others, like to think that the most objectionable behaviour in this village is limited to the anonymous writings of the ignorant and ill informed within our own newsletter.

Paul S. Jackson

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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 AUGUST

Dear Sir,

We read the *Newsletter* with great interest, and were somewhat surprised to see Watchman's recent article devoted to catering facilities in Oakington. We have tried many hostelrys in and around Cottenham – Wilburton, Oakington, etc., and have not yet found anything to surpass The Jolly Millers in Cottenham, for good food and drinks at extremely good value. If Watchman has not yet visited The Jolly Millers we suggest that he does so and give us his opinion.

We haven't yet visited the new White Hart, therefore we cannot comment on the cuisine but we hope to be able to pass an opinion in the very near future.

If we do not use our local facilities we shall lose them! We have already lost our Bank, several shops, and are in danger of losing the Post Office.

We appreciate the *Newsletter*, keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely

Frank & Jean Wilson.

[Note from the Editors: The Jolly Millers appreciation society seem to have organised a concerted campaign of letter writing this month!]

NEW ART GROUP

A new Art Group is forming. Interested?

Do you take your painting seriously, but feel you would like to spend some time each week with like-minded people, painting in water-based media? If so, a new self-help, non-tutored group is being formed in Cottenham by the University of the Third Age (U3AC). The group will be starting on 9th October 2000 and will meet in the new All Saints' Church Hall (opposite the Church) on Monday mornings from 10:00am – 1:00pm.

The U3AC is an organisation mainly for the over 50's, but as long as you are over 18 and a paid-up member of U3AC you are welcome (unfortunately we cannot provide crèche facilities).

If you would like further details on U3AC and the group, please contact: Jane Moorman on 01223 321587 or Angela Bould on 01954 250119.

ADVERTISING RATES

Current rates are:

Size A - £17.50

Size B - £30.00

(discount of 10% for six insertions prepaid)

Artwork, if required, is charged separately, minimum £5.00, depending on the amount of work involved. Quotations are available on request.

Contact Peter Robertson on
01954 200080

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police.....	Community Beat Officer.....	01223 358966
	Central Control.....	01480 456111
Doctors.....	Dr. Julie Gould, 188 High Street.....	250079
	Dr. M. Grande, 42 Telegraph Street.....	251180
Community Nurses.....	Answerphone or between 1.00 - 2.00 pm.....	251071
Cottenham CareCar.....	Co-ordinator, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.....	251837
Cottenham Day Centre.....	Mrs. M. Gilbey, 45 Victory Way.....	251802
Cottenham Helpline.....	Co-ordinator, Monday/Friday (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....	201590
	Wednesdays (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....	250937
Salvation Army.....	Capt. Kenneth Bartlett, 15 Pelham Clos.....	250524
Dentist.....	Mr. Faber, Old Telephone Exchange, 40 Margett Street.....	251696
Chemist.....	R. Macbeth, 222 High Street.....	250556
Chiropodist.....	J.R. Kain, 13 Pelham Close.....	251143
Osteopath.....	R.J. Giddings, 12 High Street, Oakington.....	01223 237459
Veterinary Surgeon.....	R. Hughes-Parry, 66 High Street.....	252122
Schools.....	Cottenham Village College and Community Office.....	288944
	County Primary, Lambs Lane.....	250227
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 Councillor.....	Rex Collinson, 20 Rampton Road.....	251377
	Tim Wotherspoon, 135 High Street.....	252108
County Councillor.....	Peter Stroude, Home Farm, Longstanton, CB4 5BT.....	01954 780008
British Red Cross.....	Cambridge Office.....	01223 354434
Citizens Advice.....	CAB, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.....	01223 353875
Social Services.....	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.....	Milton Cars.....	01223 441616
Library.....	Margett Street.....	273322
Library Doorstep Service.....	Hilary Firth.....	01223 718358
Parish Church.....	The Rev'd. Ian Friars, The Rectory, 6 High Street.....	250454
Baptist Church.....	Mr Paul Shepherd (Church Secretary) 5 Corbett Street.....	200038
Methodist Church.....	The Rev'd. Helen Gardner, Wesley House, 250 High Street.....	250242

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We may be able to help you ! Ring and ask on 01223 237459

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