

PARKING MAD

I was wondering what to write about for this month's *Newsletter*; when I got a call from a resident saying that he had a photograph of some very bad parking outside Shaun's newsagents. I asked him to drop the photos around. They showed a car parked on the corner of the High Street and Rooks Street in a manner which I find difficult to believe. It completely blocked the southbound carriageway of the High Street. It was left there for a good five minutes, the photographer tells me, while the driver nipped into Shaun's to make some purchases.

This incident is an extreme example of a phenomenon that is getting worse in Cottenham. Careless parking around shops is becoming a real problem. It is not in the control of the businesses themselves – they are not responsible for the actions of their customers. People need to realise that continuing to park like this is increasing the chance that there will be an accident in which someone will be seriously injured or killed. Please use the legal parking spaces where they are available. Where they are unavailable or full, then park a little away from the shop and walk. If you are able-bodied it won't hurt.

Fuel for thought...

And speaking of madness – the queues of traffic to get petrol in the village during the fuel crisis were pretty daunting. The price of petrol for part of the time caused raised eyebrows as it breached the £1.00 barrier at £1.02 for a litre of unleaded. I have been in touch with Gerry Johnstone, owner of Cottenham Tyre and Autocentre about the issue. He says that the bulk of the increase in price over the start of the crisis (£0.89 per litre) was accounted for by a price hike of more than 10% from his suppliers. Indeed he produced invoices which show, quite clearly, this increase in his costs.

He is quite candid that the rest of the increase in price was accounted for by him increasing his margins slightly. He justified this by saying that he and his staff were working flat out to serve the queue of cars. While they did this no other garage business was possible, and when the supply of fuel ran out, they had nothing else to sell. I'm sure people will form their own view on whether or not this increase was justified. However, the accusations of rampant profiteering which were published in the *Cambridge Evening News* would seem to be very harsh, especially if compared to a garage in Norfolk which hiked its prices to £2.00 a litre.

Eddie Murphy

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VILLAGE DIARY

September

- 24th Harvest Festival at the Parish Church 9:30am
New monthly service (4th Sunday of each month) for all the family at the Parish Church (lasting half-an-hour) 10:30am Harvest Communion 6:30pm Harvest Songs of Praise
- 29th Bus Pass Refund, Coolidge Gardens Community Room, 4:00 – 6:00pm
- 29th Ladybirds Fashion Show – Ladies clothing at bargain prices, Social Club 7:30pm. Tickets £3 includes a glass of wine
- 29th Cottenham Seniors Club, Macmillian Day Bring and Buy Sale, Cottenham Village College 2:30 pm
- 29th Cottenham Gardeners Club, Ottoman Gardens – A talk by John Drake, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm

October

- 3rd Cottenham Parish Council Meeting – Village College 7:30pm
- 4th Salvation Army Autumn Bazaar, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am
- 5th Toy Library Session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm
- 11th Cottenham Women's Institute – Putting the house to bed – Veronica Bennett (National Trust), Franklin Gardens Community Centre 7:30pm
- 13th Cottenham Village Society, Mr B. Frost: The Cotswold Way, Cottenham Primary School 7:45pm
- 13th Cottenham Seniors Club, Talk on Wicken Fen and future plans by Martin Lester, Common Room Cottenham Village College, 2:30pm
- 15th Feast Sunday Parade followed by service on the Green at 3:00pm
- 19th Toy Library Session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm
- 20th – 24th Art exhibition, Village College – see article for details of opening times
- 22nd Blessing of the Plough, Parish Church 6:30pm
- 27th Cottenham Gardeners Club, Classic Roses – A talk by Peter Beales, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm

November

- 2nd Toy Library Session, Salvation Army Barn, 2.15pm – 4.15pm
- 3rd Cottenham Seniors Club, The history of the Order of St John' Ambulance by David Cunningham, Lecture Room Cottenham Village College 2:30pm
- 8th Cottenham Women's Institute – Members night, Franklin Gardens Community Centre 7:30pm
- 10th Cottenham Village Society, Mr T. Day: From Trafalgar Square to Buckingham Palace, Primary School 7:45pm
- 12th Remembrance Sunday Service, Parish Church 3:00pm
- 16th Toy Library Session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm
- 14th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting – Village College 7:30pm
- 17th Cottenham Seniors Club, Ploughing and food produce by Robert Clarke, Common Room, Village College, 2:30pm
- 18th Toy Library Toy Sale, Methodist Church Hall, 9:30am – 11:00am
- 24th Cottenham Gardeners Club, Colour in the Garden – A talk by Bridget Smith, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm
- 25th Christmas Bazaar, Cottenham Court 2:00pm – 4:00pm

SMALL ADS

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.....

ARTICLES, DATES AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

E-mail, PC floppy disk and paper submissions are all welcome. Please contact the Editors if you have any questions. Dates of events to be advertised in the next issue (No. 60) should span the last week of November and the months of December and January.

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COTTENHAM BRASS ON THE GRASS

If you missed us, we are sorry our publicity was not what it should have been. However, those that did make it to Cottenham Village Green on Sunday afternoons in July were able to listen to a varied programme of music played by Cottenham Brass Band. Our thanks to the guest players who helped to make the programmes a success.

Cottenham Green is an ideal setting for this type of concert, and we thank the parish council for giving their consent. It is our intention to do something similar next year, probably on the first and last Sundays in July – one possibility is a “Songs of Praise” programme.

The Band has now completed its summer programme. It included playing at Ely Riverside, Soham, Sutton, St. Ives, Offord, Godmanchester, Royston and the Cambridge Motor Boat Club.

During the autumn and winter months, the Band will be playing at Willingham Feast, Offord Church, Swavesey Market Square, the McKenzie Society, and Cottenham Green on Tuesday 19th December. On Christmas Day the Band will visit at least two residential homes between 10:00am and 12:00 noon.

Should you wish to get more acquainted with the Band you would be very welcome to drop in on our rehearsals, which take place every Thursday evening at 7:30pm in the Baptist Chapel school room. Tea and coffee are served in the interval.

For those who were able to make it to the green, our sincere thanks for your attendance and donations to Cottenham Brass Band. We hope you enjoyed the music.

Colin Watson, BandMaster

Brass band pic. Crop to remove Jo Public & enlarge to fit

G B Roofing

THE THREE HORSE SHOES

... or the renovation project opposite Clement's Hardware shop

Yet again I must apologise to Roy Stinton, many of whose clientele have repeatedly regaled him with the same question every time they get their hair cut.

The tenth anniversary of my purchase of this property passed without celebration a few weeks ago. It has been a burdensome undertaking, made worse by the protracted difficulties of securing the necessary planning permissions and grants. It has taken nine planning applications (so far), two appeals and a public inquiry, as well as subsequent negotiations to remove both the main house and the stable block from the list of historic buildings at risk. It was this absurd quantity of bureaucracy that got me involved with local government,

THE POST OFFICE — USE IT OR LOSE IT

We have heard re-assuring comments from the Government regarding the efforts they are making to keep our rural post offices open. But when I enquired at our local office I was given the impression that very little had been done.

When the government proposals to pay pensions directly into bank accounts instead of over the post office counter come into force, their business will be cut by half. As they are paid on a piecework basis this will also cut their income so that our post office may cease to be a viable business.

Can you imagine having to take your Christmas parcels to Histon or Cambridge to post, and having to go further afield to collect those parcels that arrive when you are out? And they are only two of the services we will have to do without.

What can be done to ensure that the post office remains viable? Try to use the services on offer. If you have a Barclays or Lloyds Bank account, these can be used at the Post Office. When the time comes that pensions cannot be paid over the counter why not use the post office in this way?

Brenda Ward

and which has made me sympathetic in general to the planning applications that I now take part in determining.

If you don't count the emergency stabilisation works by Bunting and Peck at the end of 1993 to halt the collapse of the south gable wall, it's now exactly five years since reconstruction began.

The project has been dogged with a series of setbacks, including some major reassessments of what needed to be done as more information became available, bankruptcies and changes of contractors (I am on my fourth company) and some bureaucratic hurdles. These hurdles included an unwise insistence on retaining imperfect pieces of "original" oak, even where the structural requirements indicated otherwise. Thankfully there have been some welcome changes of personnel in the conservation section of the planning department since I took on this project, and a more pragmatic approach is resulting in a sounder structure.

In the meantime, there has been a great deal of hidden progress inside, and all three main services – gas, water and electricity – have been renewed. Ceilings have been plastered and the internal carpentry – stairs, cupboards, floor joists – is largely complete too. An acre of wilderness outside has finally been tamed, though its maintenance is still a full-time occupation, and the groundworks for the drive have almost been finished.

And the big question remains "When are you going to get the windows in?" Well, the casements were forged and glazed two years ago and are being held in secure storage until the day that I can reoccupy the rest of the house, so that they are less likely to be smashed during the night. "And when will that be?" I hear you ask. This year, next year, some time ...

Tim Wotherspoon

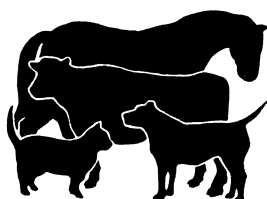
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COTTENHAM FEAST

This year, Cottenham Feast falls on Sunday, 15th October. Each year the serving Feast Committee try to find ways of improving the event. Last year we introduced a theme for the first time. This year we are continuing with that and making other changes as well.

One concern we have picked up from parents is the amount of time the children are on the floats. To address this, we will shorten the parade by starting on the Industrial Estate in Broad Lane rather than at Brookfields Industrial Park, well beyond the Parish Church. The floats will gather at 2:15pm to leave by 2:30pm.

The theme this year is 'Creation' in its broadest sense. This may be nature, conservation, the seaside, jungle, animals or any other imaginative idea. We hope all taking part will follow the theme as the floats will be judged and a cup presented, kindly donated by Aldridge Recovery of Long Drove. Mr and Mrs Aldridge are also donating a smaller cup and mementoes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd to be retained by the winners, together with a cheque for £50 for the winning organisation and a cheque for the charity being supported on the day.

The more imaginative worship involving the children seemed to be appreciated by all last year. This year it is hoped that we shall be joined by Susie Beattie and her group called 'Chimeral'. Susie attends 'Young Families' at the Parish Church each week with her children, Miriam and Dan. Again, to shorten the proceedings for the children, the Feast procession will end after the service and judging of the floats on the Green, but it is recommended that the floats return via Lambs Lane for safety reasons.

We hope these changes will be appreciated. Soon after the event, a questionnaire will go to all that took part to ascertain how they felt and to aid the planning for next year.

You may recall that it was decided last year to donate the proceeds of both last year's and this year's Feast parade to providing a fresh water supply in the village of Matagalpa in Nicaragua, through Christian Aid. It was felt that at this time of a new Millennium we should remember all the blessings we have as residents of this village, and give the simple gift of water to a community that can only dream about our way of life. We raised half the £2,000 required last year so it is hoped that this year we can complete the undertaking we have made. Please give generously at the parade in thanks for all the gifts we have as part of this village of Cottenham. Please only give in the official collecting cans. We hope you have a wonderful Feast Sunday.

Rev. Ian Friars

CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you are looking for an original Christmas Card this year that will benefit the village, look no further than the Parish Church. Amanda MacPhail from The Wooden House, Twentypence Road, has kindly designed a card to assist in paying off the outstanding sum on the building of All Saints' Hall. Called 'Yonder Star', the card depicts the journey of the Wise Men in Amanda's original style. (Look for echoes of the church tower!). Cards in packs of ten can be purchased from The Rectory, from the Church, or from the monthly Cake Stall held outside 219 High Street on the first Saturday of every month. We greatly appreciate Amanda giving her time and expertise to this, especially as she is preparing for her own exhibition at The Old Fire Engine House in Ely for a month from 1st November.

Rev. Ian Friars

[Sounds great for Christmas. The cakes are really good too! - Eds.]

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Black, white and nasty. The murderous magpie.

If we may trespass briefly into Jasper Kay territory here, let us consider the magpie. Watchman is no fan of this coarse, overdressed bird. For the magpie is a nasty creature which preys mercilessly on the eggs and fledglings of other birds, as well as being a pestilence to farmers. Indeed the alarming decline in our songbird populations is due not least to the rapacious appetite of the murderous magpie.

But this obnoxious species is currently thriving all over the British Isles — and nowhere more so than around Cottenham. Not so long ago you didn't see much of them but now magpies are all over the place, so whatever changes we are making to the environment are clearly okay by this obstreperous fowl.

You must have observed how magpies strut about so self-importantly, declaiming in that vulgar, football-rattle of a voice. Country people call them 'aldermen', due presumably to their stropy behaviour and formal dress — that's the magpies, not the country people. Conventional magpie attire is a black tail coat and a white waistcoat. If they had thumbs they would hook them into their waistcoat pockets and very probably smoke cigars as well.

The magpie's repertoire of vices does not end there however. He is also said to steal jewellery and the like, though Watchman admits he has never met anyone who was actually robbed by a magpie. Perhaps they are such stealthy thieves that you just don't know when you've been burgled. After all, when one of madame's earrings is missing or a cufflink goes awol and the hunt proves fruitless, you say it is lost, not that a magpie has probably snatched it.

Enter Ninetta, stage right

But here we must consider the operatic evidence (cue overture to Rossini's *The Thieving Magpie*). Ta-ta-da-daaah-da-dum... ta-ta-da-daaah-da-dum...

Picture the scene at Covent Garden. A young servant girl, Ninetta, is trilling away well above the treble clef, the way servants do. Ninetta is very happy because she has become betrothed to Gianetto (tenor), the son of the farmer in whose house she works.

The engagement is going along just fine, but what we need here is a dramatic turn of events. So the lass is accused of stealing a silver spoon, convicted and condemned to death. Quite right too. You steal my spoon; I have you put to death. You want drama; I give you drama plenty good. After a deal of bosom-clutching, warbling and a 20-minute interval during which the audience steadies its collective nerve in the bar, Ninetta is taken to her place of execution.

Then, in the nick of time, it is discovered that the real thief is, ta-ta-da-daaah-da-dum... a magpie.

(More alert members of the audience may have been expecting this, since they have already sat through two acts with a programme on their knees that has 'The Thieving Magpie' written all over it).

But anyway, transported by the drama, the audience breathes again. It could so easily have been curtains for Ninetta and absolutely no curtain calls. All thanks to that pathologically unpleasant bird, the magpie.

Bad news wherever he goes

Yes, sorry to say, the thieving magpie is bad news pretty well wherever he goes. In Sweden and elsewhere the bird is strongly associated with witchcraft, and the people of Devon spit three times when they see one, to ward off ill luck. In Scotland a magpie flying near a window means more than 'watch out for your cutlery'; it foretells a death.

All in all, the magpie is best avoided — though given how the species is thriving locally, he is not easily ignored around Cottenham. Indeed, if you don't see a magpie while you're out for a walk, chances are that the confounded bird is round at your place helping himself to the silver.

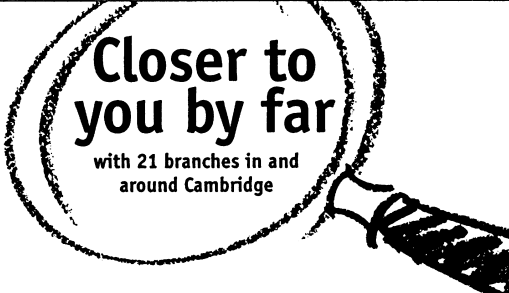
Meanwhile, back at the Jolly Millers

Two readers argue [letters/August] that Watchman should be commending pubs within the village before making mention of those further afield. Well, that's certainly debatable.

More questionable is the extravagant parting shot from one of the correspondents, who concludes: '*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.*'

Blimey. We only said they have a nice pub in Oakington.

Watchman



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COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A plan now exists for the refurbishment of the Parish Pound (opposite the Rooks Street junction in the High Street). This will involve re-building the crumbling walls in the same style and materials as the originals, and repairing the surface. Various schemes for gardens and other recreational or Parish uses have been considered at length and rejected because of concerns about security or access. It seems that the only practical use is as a parking area, as at present, but at least it will be possible to maintain the area in a respectable condition. The site is partly owned by South Cambs. District Council, and the project will be jointly funded by the District and Parish Councils.

It seems that our appeals to dog owners on the subject of fouling by their pets are being heard, and it is pleasing to report that the problem seems to be diminishing. Our appreciation to those responsible people. Unfortunately, the evidence that not everyone is listening is there for all to see (or tread in!), and we can only hope that the few remaining culprits will follow the example of their more public-spirited peers.

The bus shelter at Victory Way suffers much abuse at the hands of vandals. As a result, the seat inside the shelter is badly in need of repair. The council will investigate the availability of a vandal-proof seat. If this turns out to be impractical or too costly, the seat may have to be removed completely in the interest of safety, which would be a pity.

The village celebrations in 1977 on the occasion of the Queen's Silver Jubilee were a great success and enjoyed by all, and the Council feels that a similar event will be appropriate to mark Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee in 2002. Two years may seem a long time, but not when organising an event like this! Planning has only just begun, but one feature will almost certainly be a Gala Day or similar opportunity for charities. On comparable occasions in the past, local and national charities have taken part and been delighted by the generosity of Cottenham residents. If you would like to participate, or have any bright ideas, please contact the Parish Clerk, Peter Sanderson.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

November 11th 1999 – I was in China sailing through the gorges of the Yangtse River. These will soon be lost for ever as the water rises behind the great dam which is being built.

One of our party was a member of the British Legion and he had asked the Captain for permission to hold a Remembrance Service on the sundeck. We were eight hours ahead of British time so our service would be held at 7pm while all the other passengers were at dinner.

We gathered together, the 23 members of our party, 2 Australian ladies who had asked if they might join us, our Chinese courier, and one of the ship's officers, there partly as a courtesy and partly to report back to the Captain, I imagine.

It was a beautiful evening, quite warm, with a clear sky and a nearly full moon. Just before 7pm we formed up in a hollow square. Harry quoted "They shall grow not old" we joined you all in the two minutes silence, one of our number read the 23rd Psalm and we all said The Lord's Prayer. We stood a moment or two, caught up in the beauty of the night and the emotion of the moment – then we went down to get ready for dinner.

I don't know what the Chinese made of it all; for me it will be, for ever, a most moving memory.

Margaret Brierley

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HEALTHWATCH

by David Bradley

Nit picking

Headlice are a perennial problem and affect all social classes, although strangely they prefer nice clean hair to tangled dirty hair. You can spot them as tiny little 'nits' – the eggs – sitting close to the root of the hair. Or, you'll see the lice themselves crawling around – they are a couple of millimetres long. The biggest giveaway is an itchy head though!

The simplest way to deal with them is to avoid them in the first place. Make sure your children don't share pillows, hats, combs, or hairbrushes with other children. If there's an outbreak at school or playgroup, make sure you change the bedclothes frequently. Wash them in hot water and dry them in the tumble dryer to kill the bugs. Wash combs and brushes, and soak them in hot water for at least ten minutes. You can buy a very fine-toothed comb to comb them out.

Some people don't like the idea of using shampoos available from the chemist for supposed safety reasons, although the real problem is often that the lice have developed resistance to the shampoos and they don't work in some cases.

An alternative remedy is to use two fluid ounces of vegetable oil mixed with 20 drops of tea-tree oil and ten drops each of the following essential oils: rosemary, lavender, and lemon.

You should apply a drop to the inside of the elbow and wait several hours to make sure there is no allergic reaction or irritation. If there is don't use the remedy. If you are at all unsure of the benefits of this approach do discuss the matter with your GP or pharmacist.

Leave the mixture on the infected head under a towel for an hour, then wash with everyday shampoo and rinse thoroughly. It is a good idea to repeat the treatment at least once to get rid of the next batch of hatched lice. It is also a good idea to treat the whole family at the same time.

If you use any of these treatments, make sure the eyes are covered and that you apply the mixture only to the head and neck.

Finally, check your children for head lice at least once a week, looking for nits behind the ears and above the neck.

Swim for your life

Recent research has shown that swimming is one of the best forms of exercise you can take. It can improve cardiovascular fitness, tone up muscles and even help you lose weight. It is perhaps the best all-round exercise you can get. What's more there's a heated outdoor swimming pool right here in the village, so there's really no excuse for not taking the plunge and getting yourself in shape.

The village pool is volunteer run and is located in the grounds of Cottenham Village College. Pop along and take a dip, you never know who you might meet and how fit you'll get. Don't forget your towel.

David Bradley can be reached through his web at www.sciencebase.com

ART EXHIBITION AT COTTENHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

Who's been painting the town red ... and green ... and blue? And not just the town but landscapes and seascapes, portraits and flowers and animals and abstracts.

Well, all sorts of people. Retired toolmakers, engineers, doctors, builders, clerics, housewives, teachers and insurance agents; people whose paintings will be on show in the Art Exhibition at Cottenham Village College in October. This will be the 9th Annual Art Exhibition to be organised by the Fen Edge Community Association. As in previous years some 250 paintings by local artists will be on view and for sale.

On the Opening Evening, Friday 20th October at 7pm, (£2 with wine) a guest will choose a painting which will be given to the College for permanent display. The guest at the last exhibition was Sir Roy Calne, himself an enthusiastic artist.

The guest this year, James Paice M.P., does not list painting among his interests, but windsurfing and shooting must have given him an eye for both seascape and landscape.

The Exhibition will continue on Saturday 21st through to Tuesday 24th. Come along and see what a talented community you live in! You may not find a new Monet, Constable or Turner but you will see work of excellent quality and interest.

The Community Association receives 20% of the sale proceeds. The money goes to the Association's funds which are used to make grants to local clubs and groups as well as helping major projects such as the purchase of the Mini Bus which may be hired by and is heavily used by local clubs and groups which are members of the Association.

Cottenham Village College. Exhibition Times.

Friday 20th October 7:00pm Opening evening with James Paice M.P. £2 with wine.

Saturday 21st October 11:00am – 5:00pm £1 with refreshments

Sunday 22nd October 11:00am – 5:00pm £1 with refreshments

Monday 23rd October 2:00pm – 5:00pm and 7:00pm – 9:00pm £1 with refreshments

Tuesday 24th October 2:00pm – 5:00pm £1 with refreshments.

Poetry Corner

Flights of Fantasy

Faraway places
Strange glowing faces
The castle's devoid
Of its charms, now deserted
The demons have chanted
Eyes smarting,
Claws savage
And all around people with fear have neglected
To tell of the horrors
To breath more than whispers
The sky hazy purple
The sea crimson waters
Awash with the guilt for they can't stop the slaughters

Kings and their queens
Hide behind fearful scenes
A tormented night
Holds the secrets they've longed for
The heavens have opened
Lips burning
Souls fleeing
The serpents are weeping for all are forsaken
The Gods have defied them
But fear is subsiding
Their breath morbid yellow
Their bones all that's left now
Alone in a turmoil they hoped was salvation

Tina Kelleway

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!

This Changing Age

Is there no kindness left today?
Seems like only yesterday we lived in
Quite a different age,
When folk had time to laugh and talk
And by our side would slowly walk,
To share the sights and sounds around
Which in our lovely land abound

This world of ours must surely be the same,
Or is it you or I who really are to blame?
So shall we try to pause, and think awhile
And try each day to make some sad one smile,
For when we look upon another's need,
We then will find true happiness indeed.

C.M. HOPKINS

COTTENHAM CARECARS

Do you own a car and can you spare half an hour occasionally to give a lift to an elderly resident of Cottenham? We were set up in 1995 to provide transport to Cottenham residents who cannot get out and about or use public transport. The main demand is for short trips in the village to get some shopping, for social get-togethers and for appointments at the doctors' or dentist's surgery.

Would you be prepared to be contacted occasionally in the hope that you could help out with a lift? The scheme is subsidised by the County Council who provide extra insurance for your car and drivers receive 30p a mile towards their running costs.

Please try to help us. Recently we have had to refuse requests for a lift because we do not have an available driver. In many cases, this means the elderly person has to arrange a taxi, the cost of which is many times the charge we make.

If you would like further information, please contact Keith Evers on 250569.



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FEN EDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: MILLENNIUM ARTS

FOCUS ON TEXTILES

The internationally renowned textile artist Michael Brennand-Wood comes to Cottenham to talk about his work in an illustrated lecture on October 18th. He will also spend two days leading a workshop with Cottenham Village College students, and in January, Michael will be back to run a series of weekend workshops. Not just one but several opportunities to meet and work alongside an artist who has been an innovator and an inspirational figure in contemporary textiles for twenty years.

Threaded Art in Focus, an exhibition of decorative textiles, is a special weekend event (October 14th & 15th) presented by a local group of eleven exhibitors, all experienced textile artists. Works in mixed media techniques, together with hand and machine embroidery will be shown, as well as examples of work in progress, studies and trial pieces. Meet the makers – artists will be present throughout the two days, and keen to exchange thoughts and ideas with visitors.

Wednesday October 18th 8:00pm Cottenham Village College
MICHAEL BRENNAND-WOOD
“You Are Here” : Illustrated talk. Tickets £3.50, £2.00

Saturday October 14th & Sunday October 15th 10:00am
– 4:00pm Cottenham Village College
Threaded Art in Focus
Exhibition of Decorative Textiles
Entry by programme £1.00 adult and 25p child (5–16)
Sales. Refreshments.

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DANCE SPECTACULAR

ADZIDO Pan African Dance Ensemble brings Vibrations of Africa to Impington Village College on November 24th, in a joint promotion with Cottenham Village College. Adzido is Europe's largest traditional African dance and drumming company with a worldwide reputation for their exhilarating performances. Vibrations of Africa brings together traditional dances from across the continent, from Senegal, South Africa, Nigeria and Tanzania. The explosive energy of the dancers, the vibrant drum rhythms and colourful costumes fuse into a splendid audio visual feast of music and movement.

Adzido will also run a dance and drumming workshop with Cottenham and Impington Village College students.

November 24th 7:30pm Impington Village College
ADZIDO: Vibrations of Africa, Tickets £5.00; £3.00 concessions. Suitable for families, including pre-school aged children.

MILLENNIUM ARTS FOCUS

The Millennium Arts Focus is the first year of FECA Arts Centre Development Committee's initiative to extend the range of arts activities on offer for everyone within the Patch. We are keen to hear your views and ideas about the programme and to hear from anyone interested in getting involved. In particular, if you or your group would like help, for example with transport to events, or group discounts, please do get in touch with Jenny Kay at CVC, tel 01954 288944.

Programme supported by South Cambridgeshire District Council

Bookings & information

Cottenham Village College Tel. 01954 288944

All events: wheelchair access; disabled toilet facilities; adjacent parking

Lecture: induction loop

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Disastrous Doubles – by *Ian Johnston*

I spent an absolute fortune on the gear. Co-ordinating, utterly fashionable socks, shorts and shirt. Shoes manufactured from the latest thermodynamic, air cushioned, scratch resistant polyurathingummy, and a hellishly expensive, ultra light racket with the kick of a Howitzer. I was ready.

Mike had finally persuaded me to join Cottenham Tennis Club. I mean, after watching Wimbledon on television it wasn't that difficult, surely? Just a case of patting a bright yellow ball over a rather innocuous net. And what was all the fuss over this serving lark? 146 miles per hour sounded a trifle tame to me!

At seven o'clock the following Wednesday evening – club night – I found my way to the courts behind Cottenham Village College. There were several people already there and I studied them from a distance for a moment. They looked fairly harmless and nobody had another racket like mine. This was going to be easy.

“Hey, Ian. Come on. You're playing doubles with me.”

It was Mike. Confidence at an all time high I strutted over, glancing menacingly at the other players. Judging by their nervous giggles and whispered comments they obviously recognised a champion when they saw one.

Mike introduced our opponents, Bruce and Sue, and we agreed to which sides we would play on. Being the new guy, and the owner of the most powerful racket £250 could buy (greatly admired by the others), I elected to serve first.

I strode to the base line, took up position and bounced the ball like a true professional. Bruce and Sue were watching me like hawks from the other side of the net. I smiled enigmatically, my eyes searching for the spot where the ball would land.

In one profoundly fluid motion I threw the ball high above me and hit it with all my might. It shot through the air and connected to Mike's backside with a resounding thwack. Mike screamed, dropped his racket and started to hop around the court like a demented kangaroo, one hand vigorously rubbing the point of contact.

“Sorry,” I called, raising my hand in apology, as per the “Book of Tennis Etiquette” by Althea Mistlethwaite.

Mike glared at me, a slightly unnecessary, murderous look in his eye. He resumed his position at the net, if a little further to the left this time. I took a deep breath, tried to recall Althea's advice about concentration and the necessity of routine, and launched the second ball.

If Bruce hadn't ducked when he did he would have been eating a tennis ball. The same ball that landed three feet outside the base line.

“Love fifteen,” called Bruce, sighing heavily.

“It's the new racket. Haven't had time to get used to it,” I explained as we switched sides. Mike muttered something inaudible.

The next serve was perfection personified. The ball landed in the corner of the service box and veered off to the right. In that split second Sue had taken up position, adjusted her racket head, worked out where her opponents were, had chosen the shot and blasted a backhand through the middle of us. The ball landed an inch inside the line and I can't say, hand on my heart, that I actually saw it.

“Love thirty,” she cooed, a little too smugly for my liking.

We were beaten six love, six love that evening. An inauspicious start, I agree, and I admit I'm a little disappointed Pete Sampras is still number one and not me. Still, I persevered. I'm not sure if my technique has improved very much, but at least the other members have stopped wearing crash helmets and flak jackets!!

COTTENHAM SENIORS CLUB

Cottenham Seniors Club celebrates its 35th birthday in the year 2000.

Do come and join us to make friends and enjoy an interesting programme of activities (details in the village diary).

We meet on alternate Fridays in Cottenham Village College at 2:30pm. We would be particularly delighted to get to know people who have just come to live in the village.

For further details contact Arlene Barnard on 01954 252626.

TOY LIBRARY – FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We arrange a number of events during the year, which are always popular and additionally enable us to raise funds to buy more toys for the children. So far this year we have held a Nearly New Clothing Equipment Sale, Play Area at the Fun Run, 20 Years of Toy Library Celebration, Cake Stalls outside the Co-op, Teddy Bears' Picnic and Messy Play Days.

Some more events to note in your diary are:

Saturday 18th November

Toy Sale – 9:30am – 11:00am. Bring along your unwanted toys to sell, from 7:30pm – 9:00pm on Friday 17th November to the Methodist Church Hall and come on Saturday to buy some different ones!

Saturday 16th December

Christmas Fun Session – 9:30am – 12:00 noon. Spend an enjoyable morning with your children at the Salvation Army Barn making Christmas crafts. £2 per family. This is a good opportunity for Dads to come along while Mum goes shopping – refreshments will be available!

Come and see us at Cottenham Toy Library, we promise you a warm welcome.

Cathie Stableford (Chair) 01954 204843

REFLECTIONS – by Moyra A Borg

At last, it has happened! What? Have you tidied up your house? Oh no no no no! I have bought a computer! Yes I have taken the leap and bought one – or rather am buying one, so this article is the first I have ever been able to type on my own machine. I am aged 38 – and I have to say that I feel ancient when faced with its complexities and in fact, a real ‘ignoramus’.

Well, you may have noticed – I have another job. I was given the opportunity to work in Cottenham in the afternoons/evenings. Yes I am not far from you! ‘Where?’ you may ask. Aha! say I, you will probably already know where, though I may be wearing a sort of disguise!! You could hardly describe me as an ‘Xpress’ till person but I am trying. (P.S. Yes we know you are trying!!)

Jason my ageing vehicle is still just able to proceed at a distinguished slow 28mph, but if he does finally conk out, or should I say WHEN he conks out, I will be able to walk to work. Until such dreaded day happens, I still crank up old Jason and drive to work. Shame on you you person of large dimensions! I did not fancy having to cycle over to the *Cambridge Evening News* at Milton every night and back again at midnight. Having worked there for about nine months, I think I could probably write a book about it! Ah what a fascinating life I have been leading! I don’t mind boring jobs but like to do things thoroughly and working late is not a problem. Working in the afternoons between lunchtime and 4pm is, as I find I NEED my siesta. So now I will still have my siesta and all should be right with the world.

Snails – observations on. You may think they lead quite dull lives, but now I am not so sure. I forgot to put my Betterware catalogue out on the right night, so put mine out the next day. The following day it was still there, understandably. I had a look at it and there was a bit missing. Aha, yes eaten by snail or snails you see. Well I never. The next day I got home to find that inside the polythene wrapper which covered the catalogue was a small gathering of snails. What were they doing? They were sheltering from the heavy downpour which had just happened, plus they had got a little hungry again and eaten a bit more of my Betterware catalogue.

This I explained with great embarrassment to my Betterware lady who was thankfully not troubled by this tastiness of her catalogue. I remember years ago, when I used to park my car alongside some nettles, snails used to climb onto my car and cling on for dear life. One day it was raining slightly as I got into the car and set off for Luton airport. On my bonnet I noticed a rather large snail. It seemed to know which direction it wanted to travel and proceeded slowly until I came to a roundabout. If I turned left or right at the roundabout the snail would stop and lift its head and look puzzled for quite some time before re-plotting its route and changing direction. I didn’t quite understand the mechanism, but obviously when the car faced another way it confused the snail’s navigation system. This kept happening all the way to Luton and also on the way back, until along a stretch of the A505, where the rain became heavier and the wind stronger, I watched the snail get blown off into the nettles by the side of the road.

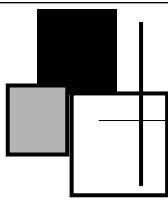
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MILLENNIUM AGE WORKSHOPS

In the autumn, we are planning two shared workshops with teenagers at the College and Over 60s, with money from our Millennium Award.

Environmental Study Day:

Last October, we had a memorable day learning (and playing) about the rain forests of South America. This year, we have arranged to visit Upware Field Studies Centre. This will be a wonderful opportunity to spend a day with an environmental expert who will explore with us the surroundings of river, woods and fields, as well as a rare chance to have hands-on enjoyment of the wonderful collection of natural history exhibits at the centre.

The trip will be on Monday, October 9th – minibus will depart from from Cottenham Village College. Price £4.00.

Screen printing craft day, Lace and Landscape:

This will be an exciting day of textile printing to produce a wallhanging for the new dining hall at Cottenham Village College. We will use found objects and other material to produce a magical new textile with a lace and landscape theme. No drawing skills are needed to create exciting images. Ricki Outis is an experienced screen printing tutor. A day spent with her will be a stimulating and enjoyable one. Places are limited, so please book early.

The workshop will be on Wednesday, October 11th at Cottenham Village College, 10:00am – 3:00pm. Price £5.00.

Both events can be booked at the College 01954 288944.

Jenny Kay

JASPER KAY'S BIRD REPORT

Writing this bird report sometimes puts me in a difficult position. People tell me of unusual birds they have seen in the area, and I often have no means of checking them. I try to be careful to distinguish between birds that have been 'seen' (definite), and birds that are 'reported to have been seen' (not definite).

With this in mind I can tell you of some exciting visitors to the area. At the end of June a little egret visited the lagoon in Long Drove, and several of us saw it on successive days. These birds, a type of heron, have only recently begun to visit Britain. They are now seen quite often on the South Coast, and are now gradually making their way further north.

Also on Long Drove, a red-footed falcon was briefly seen, probably the same one as was seen at Fen Drayton. A cross-bill visited conifer trees in Millfield at the end of June, and was probably the unidentified bird seen earlier in Church Lane. All these three birds are first-timers for Cottenham.

I have had no confirmation of a humming bird reported to have been seen in Wilkin Walk, but the poor budgerigar seen in Broad Lane was genuine.

Less exotic birds have been a curlew and a wood sandpiper in Long Drove, sparrowhawks in Rooks Street, goldcrests in Rampton churchyard, little owls in Ivatt Street, and woodpeckers (great spotted and green) in many village gardens.

There has been an interesting response to my query about house martins. Several people have told me that house martins have been nesting at the back of their houses, and not on the High Street. Are they too, trying to get away from the noise and pollution of traffic? But perhaps even more encouraging are the birds nesting on the new houses in Sovereign Way and Brenda Gautrey Way.

Jasper Kay, 22.8.2000

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SECURITY PAGE

SECURITY TIPS FOR MOTORISTS

Cambridgeshire Constabulary offers a few sensible security precautions when leaving your car:

- Lock the doors, windows, boot and sun-roof every time you leave your car.
- Always set the immobiliser. Follow this routine even when filling up with petrol or just popping into the newsagents. If you do not have an immobiliser consider having one fitted.
- Use extra security devices if you have them. There are many types that may provide a deterrent, such as a car alarm, security glazing, lockable wheel nuts, tracking devices, steering-wheel locks etc.
- Do not leave valuables and other possessions on display. That old coat on the back seat may be worthless, but a thief won't know that. He may break in to see if you've left money or cards in the pockets. Remember, the cost of replacing a broken window is often far more than the value of the goods stolen. If you can, take your belongings with you. If you can't, lock everything out of sight in the boot.
- Never leave the following anywhere in your car: cheque, credit and debit cards, driving documents and personal correspondence – they could help a thief to sell your car or provide a cover story if stopped by the police. Also, never leave mobile phones in the car. 40% of car break-ins involve the theft of a mobile phone.
- Always remove radio/cassette players if you can. Removable panel and/or security-coded car-stereo equipment is a good investment.
- Have the vehicle registration number etched on to all glass surfaces.
- When parking put the aerial down to stop it being vandalised.
- Always park in a well-lit, open location. A quarter of all recorded car crime happens in car parks. When parking in a public car park look for one that is well supervised, with restricted entry and exit points, good lighting and security cameras. Avoid dark corners.
- If using a 'pay on exit' car park, take the ticket with you - it will make it more difficult for a car thief to leave the car park without being challenged.

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A GUIDE TO BURGLAR ALARMS

More and more people are installing an alarm system in their home. If you are contemplating purchasing an alarm, consider the following points before you buy:

- A burglar alarm is not enough on its own – it should be accompanied by good, basic physical security.

- Get at least three quotes from reputable companies. Before disclosing personal security details check the address and credentials of the company and ask for proof of identity from the representative.

- If a remote signalling system is to be installed it must be done by a company which installs to BS 4737 and is approved by an Independent Inspectorate (such as NACOSS, SSAIB or AISC).

- If you buy a D.I.Y. kit, look for the appropriate British Standard (BS 6707). Only buy a D.I.Y. kit if you are confident that you can install and maintain the system safely – remember – if your system has too many false alarms, your neighbours will ignore it when you need them most!

- Check whether your insurance company offers a discount if you have an alarm fitted. Also ensure that the chosen system meets the requirements of the company.

- Regular maintenance of the system (at least once a year) is essential. Consider these costs when looking at quotes. Does the company operate a 24 hour call-out service and emergency attendance within four hours?

- Ensure that you or someone else with a key can be contacted if the alarm goes off. Make sure that anyone with access to the system knows how to use it.

- All systems require an automatic cut off, which should usually be 20 minutes. This restricts the nuisance to neighbours and prevents prosecution for noise pollution.

Any questions? The Crime Reduction Unit can offer free advice and literature about the various types of alarm systems on the market. You can contact them on 01223 823527.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is a partnership between the community and the Police to prevent or reduce the opportunities for crime and increase the likelihood of catching criminals.

Following a recent survey, it would appear that there are now very few Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Cottenham.

If you are interested in starting a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your street, please contact me at Histon Police Station. Tel 01223 358966.

Some insurers will give you a discount on your contents insurance if you belong to a scheme.

PC 953 G. Whitby

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Smithy Fen

Sadly, to many residents of Cottenham the name "Smithy Fen" does not generally conjure images of rural idyll, for reasons all too well known. Nevertheless, the land has lost much of the "no-go-area" reputation that it once had, and relations between the settled community and the travellers have been improving markedly. Indeed, in many respects it seems no longer appropriate to draw a distinction between the two.

The district council has been praised by the planning inspectorate for the moderation and reasonableness with which it has been dealing with the Setchell Drove sites. Briefly, the sideways extension of the twelve plots has been accepted, with permission for a mobile home, a touring caravan and a modest day-room on each pitch. Discrepancies from these general terms are being treated in the light of individual circumstances. The incorporation of land at the rear of the twelve plots has been rejected, however, and it is possible that enforcement action may have to commence when the compliance periods expire, on the 23rd August in most cases. There are fewer breaches at the Orchard Drove and Water Meadow Lane sites, but attention is now being turned towards these as well.

Conservation

The four new houses in Denmark Road have won an award for their attention to detail. This prestigious development consists of the closest facsimiles of the "Cottenham villa" – double-fronted, yellow brick, hipped slate roof, with sash windows and semi-circular arch over the door – since publication of the village design statement in 1994. Ironically, the builder appealed against the council's insistence on timber windows in the elevations facing the street, and the inspector upheld the council's position. I trust the developer finds consolation not only in this award, and perhaps others to come, but also in the premium he has been able to add to the price!

Wildlife

Extending the theme of other columnists about the responsibilities on pet-owners concerning public hygiene, I am inviting people with cats, in particular, to think about fitting collars with bells, especially during the nesting season. A warning tinkle might make all the difference to the survival of a fledgling or its exhausted parents.

Monthly surgery

Don't forget that our county councillor, Peter Stroude, and I hold a regular surgery together, first Friday of the month, 5:30pm – 6:30pm, in the Communal Room at Franklin Gardens. Other means of contacting us can be found on the back page.

Tim Wotherspoon

Proposed new affordable houses

The District Council is considering proposals to build six semi-detached affordable houses in conjunction with Nene Housing Association on a plot of council-owned land bounded by Ellis Close, Rampton Road and Oakington Road. The access would be from Oakington Road between numbers 1 and 1A. A planning application would have to be submitted in the normal way.

Proposed changes to ward boundaries

As part of a national review, South Cambridgeshire District Council is embarking on a re-examination of its wards for the areas represented by local District Councillors. The aim is to even up as nearly as possible the numbers of residents represented by each councillor. At present Cottenham has two District Councillors who also represent Rampton. Under the new proposals Cottenham would become a ward in its own right and Rampton would be included in a new ward with Willingham and Over. This is because of the increased population of Cottenham as a result of recent housing development. Cottenham would still be represented by two District Councillors who would be elected by residents of the village. It is expected that the new wards will be in place by 2004 and consultations on the proposals are just beginning. For residents of Cottenham the change in ward boundaries will probably make little difference, but I would be interested to hear any views residents may have.

Bus Pass refunds

The next refund session for residents with concessionary bus passes will be on Friday 29th September from 4:00pm – 6:00pm in the Communal Room at Coolidge Gardens Sheltered Bungalows. If you haven't yet claimed a refund on the cost of your current bus pass, just come along!

Surgeries

Third Friday of the month from 5:30pm – 6:30pm. in the Communal Room, Franklin Gardens. Come along if you have any concerns or points you want to discuss. Alternatively contact me at home by visit, phone or e-mail (see back page of *Newsletter*).

Rex Collinson

WINTER WALKS 1 – RAMPTON CIRCULAR

I am always sad when I hear people say 'There are no walks around Cottenham', because it simply isn't true! Over the past few years, many footpaths have been cleared and maintained, and some new paths have been created.

From September to March is an excellent time to go walking. Vegetation is low, views are good and the air is cool.

The Rampton circular walk starts in Cottenham in Broad Lane. If you are starting at the telephone box on the corner of Broad Lane and the High Street, go down Broad Lane, turn right after the industrial estate and continue for 150 yards, past the lake, until you reach the bridge over Cottenham Lode. Immediately after the bridge, turn left onto the bank and walk along the bank towards Rampton. There are good views on this section. Cottenham Church is behind you, and to your right at various points you can see Haddenham Mill, Stretham Mill, Stretham Church and Ely Cathedral. To your left you can see the water tower at the end of Lambs Lane.

Where the riverbank turns left, drop down to the right and cross a wooden bridge into Rampton Spinney. Follow the waymarks round to the right and then left and continue along the footpath until Rampton Church comes into sight. After the open field, climb over the stile and turn left, following the footpath round the edge of the field until you come to a unique stile just before Giant's Hill. You sometimes see woodpeckers in these trees, and perhaps kestrels and owls.

After climbing the stile follow the path round to the right until you join the Cottenham – Rampton road. Walk a very short distance along the road towards Cottenham, then turn to the left just before Cottenham Lode, and you will then rejoin the riverbank for the walk home.

The walk will take you about an hour and a quarter – a bit longer, of course, if you visit Rampton Church or Giant's Hill.

Jasper Kay

WE DID IT, THE HARD WAY

On June 26th a team of Royal Navy Health and Fitness Instructor students hauled me to the top of Mt Snowdon in a wheelchair. The sponsored 'lift' was made to raise funds for the little-known neurological disorder known as dystonia. A close relative of Motor Neuron disease and Parkinson's disease, it causes involuntary muscle spasms which can affect any group or groups of muscles, and when starting in childhood it can affect the whole body, leaving the child severely disabled.

The Royal Navy agreed to help a year ago and since a group of Physical Training Instructor students were to be in North Wales on an inter-services course, we thought that a sponsored wheelchair lift to the top of Mt Snowdon would be an imaginative way to raise not only funds for research and welfare, but also much-needed awareness of the disorder.

The unknown factor was the weather, but on 26th June the day dawned cloudless but cool, ideal conditions for such a venture. The other factor was my nerve, which nearly deserted me on arrival at the foot of Snowdon, which is 3,560 feet high (I thought I must be mad)! Having said that, we were met by the team, led by two instructors and the Commanding Officer and their toughness became evident. We took the Llanberis path, some 5^{1/2} miles to the summit, with gradients of 1 in 7, rising to 1 in 3 at the top. And with no fuss, teamwork, commitment, good humour and sheer professionalism, we reached the top in just over three hours, well inside the time allowed. Halfway up we were met by my youngest son, Andrew, who had flown in from Seattle especially for the event and as a surprise birthday present – a magic moment.

We do not yet know the sum raised by my sponsors, but at the time of writing the sum stands at £5000, with sponsor forms returned to The Dystonia Society's London office expected daily; the time set for the close of the event is 16th September, but I will keep you posted. In Cottenham we have raised £550 to date, with a little more to collect. I think this is a magnificent amount for a village, and I do thank all my generous sponsors most sincerely, and add that if we have helped to make just one sufferer's life a little more comfortable it will have been a well worthwhile event.

What a way to spend a 75th birthday, and thank-you everyone.

Joy Perry

Autumn - COTTENHAM YOGA -

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COTTENHAM PRIMARY

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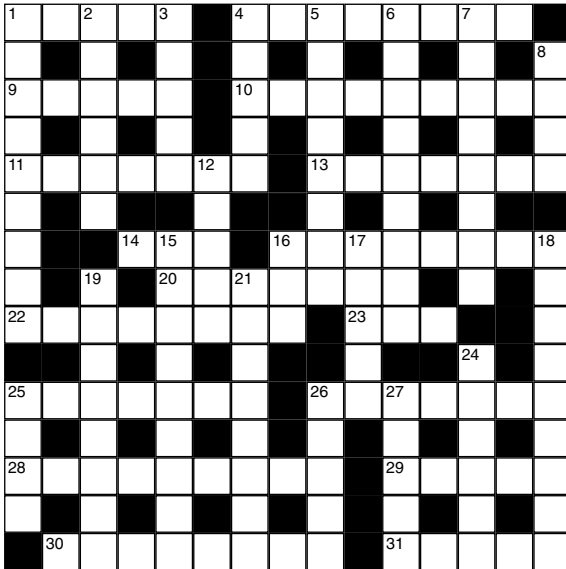
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Crossword

– Hip Hip Hip Hooray. Compiled by Roger Gautrey



ACROSS

- 1 Coarse river, we hear (5)
- 4 Erect cart in vile position (8)
- 9 Deep channel in which to feast (5)
- 10 Riotous – No infamous (9)
- 11 Ava comes between a car and the Italian, what a toil (7)
- 13 Reg has charged particles in the areas around town (7)
- 14 Shortly substitute for a P. S. V. (3)
- 16 Conical bumps found in dim oasts (8)

- 20 Religious sacrament (RC.) taken by Penelope with acne (7)
- 22 Ted (old M. E. P.) was let off the hook (8)
- 23 If I stayed I would shortly see this bird (3)
- 25 Pass on to eastern europe for an arbitrator (7)
- 26 Take directions later to the head branches (7)
- 28 Nothing inside the cord ring will be decaying (9)
- 29 Gas specialist or a dog, maybe (5)
- 30 Abandon before joint set (8)
- 31 Fifty sway on these boats (5)

DOWN

- 1 Non mineral food perhaps (9)
- 2 Tethering rope used on a trial (6)
- 3 Renata loses her tee in the stadium (5)
- 4 Albert and Neville can briefly be corrupted (5)
- 5 Can this member be turned (8)
- 6 Watered Ted with air rig! (9)
- 7 Formal defence by an American soldier with a pool (8)
- 8 Is repeatedly on the river (4)
- 12 Points to it being let into a fabric (5)
- 15 The pump store is very important (9)
- 16 Five hundred get a degree– insane (3)
- 17 Sonic offshoot (5)
- 18 It pleases me to feast with 8) (9)
- 19 Unavoidably it is achieved by strength (8)
- 21 I study these bloomers in eastern meza (8)
- 24 Drew Ra has to again configure his work (6)
- 25 The Maori church has moneyed people (4)
- 26 Gas to groan about! (5)
- 27 Is it bad taste for one hundred territorial army soldiers to go to American state (5)

Answers on inside back cover

Cambridge Cabinet Makers NEW ADVERT

BABY GROUP

EXPANDS INTO NEXT STAGE!

Cottenham "Under One's Group" has evolved and produced an offspring. The Under One's Group has now been meeting in the Baptist Church for nearly a year, so many of the babies were turning one and unable to continue attending. The babies were missing their playmates and the mothers were lost with nowhere to go every Monday at 1:00pm. Hence the 1-2-2 Group was conceived.

The 1-2-2 Group is designed for babies between the ages of 12 and 24-months old. We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month in the Salvation Army Barn between 2:00pm and 4:00pm. There is plenty of room for the little ones to play in with a large selection of puzzles, toys and equipment available. Refreshments are served and we charge 50 pence.

This group is ideal for first time parents or for those of you with elder siblings in school. So don't go insane at home on

NAVAL TRIVIA

All Services have their own jargon which may be meaningless to the uninitiated. Here are a few RN examples of slang and euphemisms, past and present.

ADRENALIN'S BROWN. *Fundamental discovery about one's personal physiology on being seriously frightened, especially when this happens for the first time.*

BANYAN. *Picnic held ashore by a ship's company whilst deployed at sea. Where possible on the beach of a deserted island which allows relaxation.*

CRABFAT. *A member of the Royal Air Force. There is a description for the term but perhaps not for publication!!*

DIT. *Any written or spoken account of an incident or event in a sailor's life.*

EGG ON LEGS. *A short fat person.*

FANG FARRIER. *A Dentist*

A HEAP. *An individual of poor personal appearance.*

OLD SALT

[Any equivalent trivia from the other services – Ed. ?]

your own, with an inquisitive toddler, come to the 1-2-2 Group, relax and socialise.

The dates for the group are:– September 14th and 28th, October 12th and 26th, November 9th and 23rd, December 14th.

And don't forget if the 1-2-2 Group is not on then the Toy Library is (2:15pm to 4:15pm). Plus the Under One's Group is still meeting in term time, every Monday, from 1:00pm until 3:00pm in the Baptist church. So if you're in Cottenham and have a baby, come and join in!

Lesley Popple

LETTERS to the Editors

Dear Editors,

For a rather late inclusion into the *Newsletter* please – Christian Aid Week in May.

Even though this note is very late in coming, I should still like to say THANK YOU to everybody who helped to make it a total of £1541.36 for this year's collection.

My special thanks go, of course, to the collectors who gave up their evenings going from door to door.

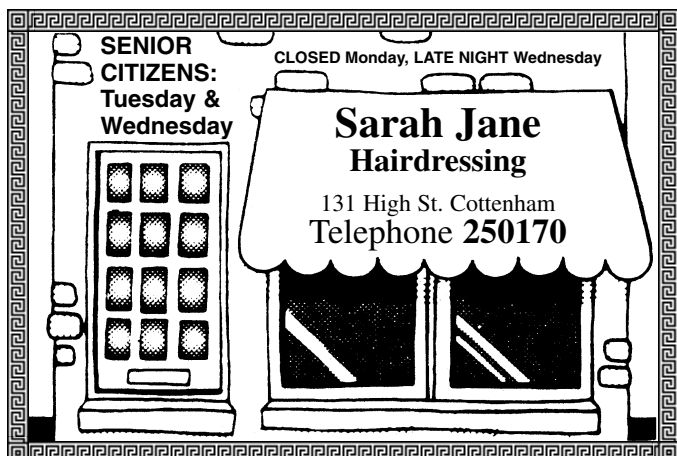
Henry Fleck

Cottenham Open Gardens Event, Sunday July 2nd

Joan & I decided to open our garden for this event with the intention of raising money for the Children's Cancer Ward at Addenbrookes.

Although we have for several years enjoyed our garden as it was, we decided that there was a need for some rearranging to be carried out before we could invite friends and guests to come to visit on the planned open day, and so after some

continued on next page



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

changes and hard work it was with a measure of trepidation that we thought we were ready to receive a few people during the afternoon of the 2nd.

Refreshments and cups were laid out ready, various fundraising stalls were set up, and a special Bonsai display arranged with smaller and younger trees available for purchasing. These in particular sold so fast after we opened that extra supplies had to be brought in to meet the demand.

At 13:50 the rain came down, so we had to cover up the stalls, but at 14:02 the rain stopped which allowed us to uncover the tables and the visitors began to arrive. From that moment our team of helpers never stopped as we were constantly serving the visitors who were streaming in, the team in the kitchen never got a break from serving teas, coffees and cakes until after 5:00pm, as indeed neither did our merry band of fundraisers! There was a great atmosphere of happiness and enjoyment throughout, and a lot of talking and nattering by the visitors who met friends and acquaintances from times past. There were times when we had no spare room in the garden for more visitors to pass through with comfort and ease, but what a gay time we all had, if I'm allowed to express it in that way!

Above all, the main intention of the day was a financial success, and Joan and I are extremely pleased to say, that through the hard work of our helpers and the kindness of several donations we have managed to raise a staggering sum of £503 towards our goal of approximately £4000. This is the amount required to purchase a piece of equipment that will help in the treatment of children suffering from various types of cancer.

On behalf of Joan, Cheryl, Matthew and myself, we would like to offer our thanks to all who assisted us and visited us for this event.

Yours sincerely

Vic Pinner

PS Matthew's Fund is still open if anyone would like to support us. Thank you.

Down
1 Vegetable, 2 Lariat, 3 Arena, 4 Vernal, 5 Rotarian
6 Irrigated, 7 Apologia, 8 Isis, 12 Inset, 15 Uppermost
16 Mad, 17 Scion, 18 Satisfies, 19 Perforce,
21 Nemesias, 24 Redraw, 25 Rich, 26 Argon, 27 Tacky
Across
1 Volga, 4 Vertical, 9 Gorge, 10 Notorious, 11 Travall,
13 Regions, 14 Bus, 16 Mastoids, 20 Penance,
22 Exempted, 23 Ide, 25 Referee, 26 Antlers,
28 Corroding, 29 Corgi, 30 Jettison, 31 Yawls

Hip Hip Hooray – Crossword answers

Deadline

FOR NEXT ISSUE

25th OCTOBER

Dear Editors,

The Bird Report in the August/September issue requested information on the nesting places of house martins and swifts. I can report that there are several house martins' nests in Brenda Gautrey Way. It appears that they like the eaves under the porches of some of the styles of houses on this new development.

Yours sincerely,

Neil George

Dear Editors,

There are more and more houses being built in Cottenham and it is becoming increasingly difficult to park at the post office and chemist shop. We had one of the widest High Streets in the district until the traffic calming people spoil it.

I am sure that the obstructions could be replaced with hump or rumble strips to reduce speeding. We could even park astride the humps if there were a lot of them.

Mrs J Jory

STOP HIDING – COME GUIDING

If you enjoyed YOUR Guiding and want to give a little back, there are plenty of ways you can help today's Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers. You can help occasionally with activities, outings and fundraising or regularly with the existing leaders at their meetings. If you have the enthusiasm, you can become an adult leader and run a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide or Ranger Unit.

Stop Hiding, Come Guiding, it's still the fun you remember.

For more information please contact Vivien Lampard, 319 High Street, Cottenham, CB4 8TX Tel: 01954 200811

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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
Cottenham Toy Library.....	Carol Grange.....	251528
Dentist.....	Mr. Faber, Old Telephone Exchange, 40 Margett Street.....	251696
Chemist.....	R. Macbeth, 222 High Street.....	250556
Chiroprapist.....	J.R. Kain, 13 Pelham Close.....	251143
Osteopath.....	R.J. Giddings, 12 High Street, Oakington.....	01223 237459
Veterinary Surgeon.....	R. Hughes-Parry, 66 High Street.....	252122
Schools.....	Cottenham Village College and Community Office.....	288944
	County Primary, Lambs Lane.....	250227
Under Ones Group.....		250609
Pre-School.....	Ladybirds Pre-School, Recreation Ground.....	250891
Out of School Club.....		250025
Council Offices.....	South Cambs. District Council.....	01223 443000
	Cambridgeshire County Council.....	01223 717111
Parish Council.....	Clerk - P.J. Sanderson, 37 Broad Lane.....	250836
District Councillors.....	Rex Collinson, 20 Rampton Road. e-mail: rex@rcollinson.fsnet.co.uk.....	251377
	Tim Wotherspoon, 135 High Street. e-mail: timwothers@aol.com.....	252108
County Councillor.....	Peter Stroude, Home Farm, Longstanton, CB4 5BT.....	01954 780008
British Red Cross.....	Cambridge Office.....	01223 354434
Citizens Advice.....	CAB, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.....	01223 353875
Social Services.....	Histon Team.....	01223 264466
Mobile Warden Service.....		251182
NSPCC.....	Cottenham Area Team, Peterborough.....	01733 558245
RSPCA.....	Area Number, Peterborough.....	0990 555999
Samaritans.....	Cambridge Centre.....	01223 364455
Railway Station.....	Cambridge, Passenger Enquiries.....	0345 484950
Taxi.....	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
Salvation Army.....	Cpts. Ken and Jill Bartlett, 15 Pelham Close.....	250524

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The Best Pre-School Learning Environment

LADYBIRD PRE-SCHOOL, COTTENHAM TEL (01954) 250891



We provide

- Separate "preparing for school" sessions for children starting school September 2001
- Morning/afternoon sessions from 2 years 9 months
- Little Ladybirds (from 2 years) Tuesday mornings and Monday & Thursday afternoons
- Baby, toddler, parent and carer group on Friday mornings (9-11.30 am)

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

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

Supervisor: Rosemary Miller BA(Hons)

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