

CHANGING TIME!

After many years of service, the clock on the tower of the Methodist church is being retired. David Warford describes some of the history of the clock inside as well as providing an interesting quiz on public clocks in Cottenham.

While significant funds have been raised towards the replacement modern clock, there is some way to go. The church is looking to raise the remaining £428 towards this excellent cause. After a review of our dust-covered coffers, we at *The Newsletter* find that we have a small surplus and we are pleased to be able to donate £150 towards the fund. This will help but you, the good people of Cottenham, are asked to help to further close the gap on the money required. Please support this village appeal.

Dog fouling is an on-going problem. The situation in Margett Street/Corbett Street has improved recently since the article in *The Newsletter* pointing out that a fine has been levied on one offender fouling there. Unfortunately some of the problem has been displaced to other parts of the village, particularly to the new streets off Broad Lane.

This is a really distressing problem for those who have to go about their business where our four legged friends(?) have been about theirs! If you walk your dog around the streets, please clean up after it.

This year's Feast Parade will be on Sunday 14th October. The theme will be "Around the World"! The decorated floats

will assemble by 2:00pm at the Brookfields Industrial Estate on Twentypence Road. The parade will set off at 2:15pm, down the High Street, to arrive at the Village Green for the Service at 3:00pm. Hymn sheets will be handed out, so please join in. After the service the parade will leave the Green via Rampton Road.

The money collected will be split in two: half going to Christian Blind Mission based in Milton and the other half going to registered childrens' charities in Cottenham (please apply in writing to Sue Gymer, 14 Courtyard Way)

If your School, Church, Club, Group or Business would like to enter a float please nominate a member to contact Sue Gymer on Cottenham 252902. Any offers of help would be warmly received and anybody with further questions should speak to Sue.

Over the last few editions of *The Newsletter*, we have been publishing the reported crime figures for the village for the most recent month available. This is not intended to cause alarm – Cottenham is a relatively safe place! However, even here, vigilance is needed. On reading the latest list, I for one will not be leaving my bicycle unlocked outside local shops. The figures are a reminder that, even in a safe place like this, if we make life easy for criminals, they will say thank you very much as they disappear with ill-gotten gains.

Eddie Murphy

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VILLAGE DIARY

September

- 28th Cottenham Seniors Club, The history of the Farmland Museum by Margaret Williams, Lecture Room, Cottenham Village College, 2:30pm
28th Cottenham Gardeners Club, Apples from Eve to the supermarket, Mr Dick Knight, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm

October

- 4th Salvation Army, Coffee morning, Salvation Army Barn High Street, 10:00am – 12:00 noon
6th Salvation Army, Jumble sale, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am – 11:30am
7th Salvation Army Harvest Service, Salvation Army Hall, 11:00am
9th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting, Cottenham Village College, 7:30pm
10th Cottenham WI, Demonstration of silk ribbon embroidery by Sheila Elliot, Franklin Gardens Community Centre, 7:30pm
12th Cottenham Seniors Club, Local Archaeology by the Archaeology Field Unit, Lecture room, Cottenham Village College, 2:30pm
12th Cottenham Village Society, Mike Woodhouse: Agricultural unrest in Cambridgeshire, Cottenham Primary School, 7:45pm
13th WI Lunches – everyone welcome, Salvation Army Barn, 12:00 noon to 2:00pm
18th Salvation Army, Coffee morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 12:00 noon
19th Cottenham Wildlife Trust, Illustrated talk ‘Amphibians (and Madingley Toad Rescue)’ by William Seale, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm
21st Cottenham Wildlife Trust, Morning work party at Dog House Grove, Wilburton. 10:00am in the lane at the entrance to the reserve – contact Peter on 01954 251544 for details of the tasks involved.
26th Cottenham Gardeners Club, Care of Houseplants, Mr John Gates, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm

November

- 1st Salvation Army, Coffee morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 12:00 noon
2nd Cottenham Seniors Club, Duxford Imperial War Museum, Lecture Room, Cottenham Village College, 2:30pm
9th Cottenham Village Society, Francis Garrett and Mervin Haird: Cottenham, Then and Now (slide show), Cottenham Primary School, 7:45pm
10th Salvation Army, Jumble sale, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am – 11:30am
13th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting, Cottenham Village College, 7:30pm
14th Cottenham WI, 75th Birthday Party, Franklin Gardens Community Centre, 7:30pm
15th Salvation Army, Coffee morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 12:00 noon
16th Cottenham Wildlife Trust, Illustrated talk ‘A walk round the Shetlands’ by Geoffrey Evans, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm.
16th Cottenham Seniors Club, Work of Huntingdonshire Countryside Services, Common Room, Cottenham Village College, 2:30pm
18th Cottenham Wildlife Trust, Morning work party at Dog House Grove, Wilburton. 10:00am in the lane at the entrance to the reserve – contact Peter on 01954 251544 for details of the tasks involved.
24th Cottenham Toy Library, Toy Sale, Methodist Church, 9:00am – 11:00am
24th Salvation Army, Christmas Fayre, Salvation Army Barn, 11:00am – 3:00pm
29th Salvation Army, Coffee morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 12:00 noon
30th Cottenham Seniors Club, Bring and Buy Sale, Common Room, Cottenham Village College, 2:30pm
30th Cottenham Gardeners Club, The Scented Garden, Miss Annie Schindler, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm

SMALL ADS

CARPENTER AND TOYMAKER – All your small carpentry needs. Also dolls’ houses and wooden toys. Many different types of houses. Order before November for Christmas. Call Nick on 01954 200090

GARDENER ?

Busy family seeks help in garden, 2 hours per week (£5 per hour). Cottenham High St Tel: 01954 201708.

Why not advertise in the Newsletter! Items for sale, announcement of family events... 5p per word, with all proceeds going to charity. Send advertisements and payment to the editors. Cheques should be made payable to ‘Cottenham Newsletter’.

RATTY?

Have you seen a water vole in Cottenham?

The water vole has the dubious reputation of Britain’s fastest declining mammal. There are many areas where the water vole is now extinct. Its habitat is now protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. In Cambridgeshire the water vole has also seen significant declines but can still be found in some small streams and ditches, particularly north of Cambridge. In Cottenham, water voles have been seen in various ditches including those next to Long Drove and alongside the new housing development between Denmark Road and Beach Road.

The water vole is often known locally as a water rat and achieved fame as “Ratty” in Kenneth Grahame’s classic book – The Wind in the Willows.

The water vole has a number of natural predators, such as heron, pike, stoat and barn owl, and has adapted various escape plans. However, the American mink is a new predator and can quickly eliminate water voles, especially if their vegetation cover is removed or bank holes are damaged. Water voles are also vulnerable to poison set for brown rats if care is not taken.

For further information about water voles, to report your observations or find out how you can help: Tel Sharon Hearle, Cambridge Green Belt Project 01223 712410.

Email: shearle@cambswt.cix.co.uk

POPPY APPEAL

Cottenham Parish Council have been asked for their help and assistance in finding a person in the Cottenham or Rampton area who would be willing to take on the organisation of the forthcoming Poppy Appeal in the autumn of 2001.

The request has been received from the Royal British Legion's County Field Officer for Cambridgeshire, Mr Tony Pepper. It follows the difficulties of the local Royal British Legion to find an organiser, due in the main to ill health.

The Cottenham and Rampton Branch of the Royal British Legion was formed in 1921, it is therefore one of the oldest branches within the UK. Since its formation, the village has always supported the national poppy appeal and its annual collection held each November.

Last year's appeal and collection saw a sum of over £4,000 being raised within our community.

Our village grows day by day. To organise the poppy appeal is no small task. CAN YOU HELP? If you feel that you would like to consider the matter and would like any further information, please contact: Tony Pepper, The Royal British Legion's County Field Officer for Cambridgeshire Tel: 01480 478520 or Peter Sanderson, Clerk to Cottenham Parish Council, 37 Broad Lane, Cottenham Tel: 01954 250836.

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey present a Children's Festival. It will take place on Sunday 23 September. This is a special event aimed at our younger visitors. Come and watch Punch and Judy, have your face painted, enter the Scarecrow-making competition, make some clay gargoyles and much more.

Two thousand years of history in a beautiful rural setting, Cambridgeshire farming and village life and a Grade I Medieval Abbey make a fascinating attraction.

We are open April to October noon to 5:00pm daily and we are located off the A10 between Cambridge and Ely. Tea room at weekends. Enquiries 01223 860988/489

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Cam Sight Rural Link Scheme needs volunteers in Cottenham. Can you Help?

Cam Sight's Rural link scheme aims to reduce the risk of isolation, which visually impaired people living in rural areas often have to face.

With the help of volunteers, local agencies and organisations, we want to expand our scheme to the Cottenham area. Our aim is to give people with sight problems access to advice, information and equipment, and the opportunity to meet together for mutual support in their own area.

If you would like to help us set up a rural link in Cottenham, either as a client, volunteer or just for further information call Julie Petrie-Symes on 01223 420033.



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EXHIBITION

Haddenham Studios and Gallery will host a selling exhibition of paintings, prints and textiles by graduates of Norwich School of Art, an opportunity to view and buy work from some of our most talented emerging artists. The exhibition will take place between October 6 and October 28 at the Gallery at 20 High Street, Haddenham. Opening times: 10:00am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:00pm Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday.

On Wednesday October 24, the gallery will host a children's workshop between 10:00am and 3:00pm. The workshop will be hosted by Ricki Outis and Lynne Olney.

These workshops have proved to be very popular in the past. You can print your own T-shirt if you bring your own plain white cotton T-shirt and create your own design. Booking for this workshop is essential. £8 per child, £6 for other children from the same family.

Telephone 01353 749188 or 01954 250329

COTTENHAM SENIORS CLUB

Why not come and join us to make friends and enjoy an interesting programme of activities? We meet on alternate Fridays at Cottenham Village College at 2:30pm and we would be delighted to see new faces. For further details call Doreen Chamberlain on 01954 250874.

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CLOCK THIS!

by David Warford

These few questions may test your observations about Cottenham's public clocks:

1. How many outside clock dials are there in the village?
2. How many of Cottenham's outside clocks are built into a tower or turret?
3. Where, in the village, was a public clock installed in: (a) 1864 (b) 1907 (c) 1989?
4. Which of the above clocks has been stopped by practically every thunderstorm for half a century and now, finally worn out, has been out of action for the past year?
5. After £1500 has been raised, which new clock should by this coming autumn:
 - be synchronised from National Physical Laboratory standard time broadcasts from Rugby (derived from the resonance of atomic Caesium and claimed to have a variation of less than 1 second in 2000 years) ?
 - have its 137-year-old dial given a "face lift". It will be repainted black, its numerals re-gilded and its awful plain metal strip hands, probably regarded as "modern" in 1947, replaced by traditional "spade" style hands?

Yes, it is the Methodist Church clock (facing the Co-op). While being a generally good timekeeper, it has also had periods of misbehaviour since 1947, when the original gravity-driven apparatus was replaced by a synchronous electric motor mechanism.

Prior to 1947, it seems that the original clock had provided a reliable service for over 80 years. Roy Burgess recalls that it was noted for its accuracy in the 1930s when, before joining the RAF, he took responsibility as Clock Minder. He remembers winding the weights up 20 feet each week was a tedious 15 minutes job, performed while hanging to the top of the access ladder. Roy also recalls how the bell chimes were disabled when Methodist worshippers, previously, it appears, a tolerant lot, could no longer stand the loud hourly whirring noise of the governor paddles.

The newer technology, while saving the effort of manual winding, did not improve its service. The clock tended to stop with even very short breaks in the electricity supply. For the past 50 years, thunderstorm induced power breaks have been dreaded by generations of Clock Minders who, for each stoppage, have been called out to re-set the mechanism - requiring patience and agility to climb up and down the ladder several times to finally check the precise time from outside.

The mechanism finally expired in 2000. There was no serious attempt to restore it to life and no regrets by the Clock Minders. The Church Council then decided to raise funds for a new clock.

To raise £1500 to cover supply, installation and estimated maintenance for five years, a deposit account has been opened. To date we are grateful for donations or promise of funding from: Cottenham Parish Council (£500), Ebenezer Baptist Church Trust (£200), Methodist Church Members (£154) Individuals, Organisations and Businesses (£218)

As it is a Public Clock, we are appealing to the Village to raise a further £428 to restore this useful and attractive High Street feature. Contributions, however small, are welcome. Can you help?

Donations may be sent to the fundraiser: David Warford, 133, Histon Road, Cottenham, CB4 8UQ, or dropped in at The Manse, 250 High Street, Cottenham. Cheques payable to "CMC Clock Fund" please.

1. Four. 2. Two. 3(a). Methodist Church. 3(b) All Saints Church. 3(c) Moores Court. 4. Methodist Church. 5. Methodist Church

Methodist Appeal for a New Public Clock. Answers to quiz

AnneMarie Esgate
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PARISH COUNCIL

It is not often that the Parish Council spends money on something that it hopes the village will never use, but at the last meeting it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £1,000 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. This service uses a helicopter to fly paramedics to the scene of an accident and patients to hospital. In serious trauma cases, a few minutes delay can be the difference between life and death, and anyone who has tried to cross Cambridge in the rush hour, or navigate the A14 when there has been an accident, will appreciate the potential value of this service. Surprisingly, it appears that the Air Ambulance, which costs around three quarters of a million pounds a year to run, is supported entirely by business sponsorship and voluntary donations.

Back to earth, and the "old faithful" of dog fouling. The Council has received a number of complaints from residents of the new developments. It seems that our few remaining inconsiderate dog owners, having been warned off Margett Street by Eddie Murphy and his vigilantes, have turned their attention to the new territory of Tenison Manor. These streets have not yet been "adopted" by the local authority and are, therefore, still in the ownership of the developer, which is why no dog bins have yet been installed. As soon as development is completed and the site handed over, the Council will install bins, and in the meantime residents are urged to contact the Dog Warden directly (01223 443000) to report specific offenders.

Another matter of concern in Tenison Manor is the medieval Moat, which as a condition of the Planning Permission, is the subject of a Management Plan designed to ensure its preservation and future amenity value. Unfortunately, as anyone

can see, it has been totally neglected since the beginning of the development, and is now an overgrown wilderness. For children it is a doubtless exciting but potentially very dangerous place. We are currently in discussion with South Cambridgeshire District Council, as the Planning Authority, about enforcement of the planning condition to require the new owners of the site, Persimmon Homes, to implement the Management Plan. It will be a technically specialised and expensive undertaking and the Parish Council cannot accept responsibility for the Moat until the necessary work has been carried out.

The Parish Pound (the unofficial car park opposite Shaun's News) is a less than attractive village landmark. We had hoped that by now we would have seen a refurbishment under way, but the likely costs of the exercise have exceeded all expectations. The Pound is in the Conservation Area, so any rebuilding work must be done using original materials and in an appropriate style. Estimates to do the work have been as high as £30,000, which seems an awful lot for an unofficial car park! The Pound is jointly owned by the Parish Council and South Cambs D.C, and we are trying to find a way forward, either by an increased contribution from South Cambs or by reducing the costs in some way.

After the last issue, a resident claimed that the flashing signs in Histon Road had never worked. In fact, they worked for about a day, for testing! Having seen them work once, your correspondent naively assumed that they might continue to do so. It transpires that they were tested under battery power, which was then taken away. In spite of repeated requests by the Clerk to the County Council Highways Department, the necessary mains supply has never (as at the end of August) been connected!

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REFLECTIONS...

by Moyra A Borg

I had a funny thought a while ago. I suddenly realised that most of my employment in life had come from learning just two things...how to drive and how to type. Neither of these had been learned at school although my introduction to typing was a bit earlier than learning to drive.

I was aged about 12 when a friend who was leaving Malta, decided to sell her typewriter for £3. It was a simple little manual Smith Corona. I really wanted a typewriter and decided I would invest in it. On hearing about this, my mother agreed that I could buy it, but as I was going to spend all that money on it, only if I would learn to type properly...i.e. touch-typing. I agreed, bought the typewriter and afterwards went for my typing lessons every week.

It was winter-time I remember, dark, wet and gloomy and I did not want to go. I went to Sammy's Typewriting School in Hamrun, (Malta). The school was actually a long passageway which led from the front door of his house into a small room. All along the side of the passageway were very large and very old typewriters and sitting at them were lots of ladies wearing black from head to toe. They belonged to the MUSEUM, a lay religious group. Over the keyboards of all the typewriters were heavy wooden covers. This was to stop you looking at the keyboard as you learned!!

I was the youngest person there and was so short that I could have just sat there and looked at the keyboard as I typed. Sammy would come round and assess my typing. He had just eaten 'kapaaaaa' (capers) or something ghastly and there was such a whiff of halitosis that I thought, 'I must not make any mistakes' because if I did make mistakes then he would grace me with his presence even longer.

The keyboard was made up of circular keys and the gap in between the keys was so enormous that if you didn't watch it, your fingers would disappear down the gap and get hurt on the shafts of the keys! I passed with a speed of 58 words a minute and being able to type was very useful from day one. Years later, while on holiday in Northern Ireland, we called in at a hotel, that was celebrating 100 years of being in existence. Lo and behold, it decided to show a typewriter which came from that era. 'I learned on one like that!' I exclaimed.

A major trauma is about to take place for my two cats. Their majesties are going on an expedition....to the VET!! Yes indeed!! They are both infested with the flea! I am going to have them both given the anti-flea jab. This acts as a contraceptive to fleas too, so ought to eradicate the problem. (and here am I, a good Roman Catholic girl!! Well I am still practising !!)

They do not like going anywhere by car... even just up the road. There will be a lot of wailing and waaahing and fuss as we proceed up the High Street in my car! After all this to-do, they actually don't dislike the vet and behave impeccably in the surgery. They don't seem to even notice the injection and sit there demurely opening their mouths to order when any pill giving takes place.

Pill-giving is a disaster with me. They clamp their little mouths shut and I am unable to get either cat to open them up for me at all! Any success I ever have is always with cat no. 1, by which time cat no. 2 distrusts me completely. My mother is over in England at the moment and this is one of my 'must spruce up my life' efforts. If she sees either beastie and a flea leaps onto her arm then I have had it. Pestilence!

COTTENHAM THEATRE WORKSHOP

Although you don't want to be reminded that Christmas is a-comin', you will want to know that preparations are well in hand for CTW's annual extravaganza.

Rehearsals are underway for Cinderella, which will be at the Village College from December 5th to 8th. The story is much as you would expect. Cinderella's father has just married again and new wife and her two daughters Paprika and Cinnamon (the last of the Spice Girls), have moved into Stoneybroke Hall. Although Cinderella has an ally in Buttons, things take a turn for the even worse when Cinderella is not allowed to go to the ball at the Royal Palace. However, a little magic later, and after a frantic search for a missing slipper, a happy ending is achieved.

Tickets are sure to be in great demand and there are generous discounts for groups of ten or more. Tickets will be on general sale from the end of October, but you can get on the priority list by calling 01954 252692. Be there or be square!!

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COTTENHAM W.I. IS 75

Cottenham Women's Institute is 75 years old in November (1926-2001). Cottenham 75 years ago was a very different village. It was almost self-supporting and had a strong community spirit, possibly because there was no through road to Ely via the Twenty-pence Road. In August 1926, the Parish Council considered completing the Twenty-pence Road by building a bridge across the river. Until then one had to cross the river by ferry at the Twenty-Pence Inn.

Most of the villagers were engaged in agriculture or fruit growing. Very few worked in Cambridge. The village was well supplied with shops from Cottenham Supply Stores that sold almost everything, to bakers, grocers, shoemakers, four butchers, seed merchants and a chemist attached to the Post Office. There were industries associated with agriculture such as blacksmiths. Bricks and tiles were made at Brick Kiln at the bottom of Ivatt Street, then called Brickle Lane. There was no village college.

Against this background, Cottenham Women's Institute was formed in November 1926 to provide an educational and social club for the women of the village. At the December meeting 50 members were enrolled. Girls of 14 and older were admitted, reflecting the general school leaving age then.

The village W.I. was then very drama-minded, producing several successful pantomimes and even two-act plays with husbands involved in the cast. Other activities included classes in glove-making, quilting, dressmaking and embroidery, all taken by W.I. instructors. During the war years, members formed a canning class and had to pool their sugar ration. Hundreds of meat pies were made and sold and the profits used to buy camp beds for the Home Guard. Socks and scarves were knitted to help the war effort. After the war, in the '60s when the Village College opened, these classes ceased, being provided through the college's further education programme.

To mark Cottenham W.I.'s 50th anniversary in 1976, the committee and members decided to produce and erect a village sign. This was designed by Sarah Taylor, the Village

College art teacher. It was located on the green walkway on the High Street, outside the Village College so that it could be seen by those entering the village from Cambridge.

The Institute continued to flourish with excellent programmes of talks, visits and a strong home economics group meeting on a monthly basis, alongside the Institute's main meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. There were and are further educational opportunities provided at the Denman W.I. Residential College in Oxfordshire with a wide range of subjects to choose from. Each year an Institute bursary is awarded to a member wishing to attend.

Our Diamond Jubilee in 1986 was celebrated by publishing a book compiled by members entitled "Reminiscences and Recipes", still in use I believe. 1993 to 1995 saw the relocation of the village sign to the Lamb's Lane junction with the High Street, deemed to be a more suitable position. It was carefully restored and re-gilded, as when it was removed it was found to be badly rotted and weathered. The cost was borne by the W.I., the Parish Council and the District Council.

Our 70th anniversary was celebrated with a dinner and we plan to repeat this for our 75th anniversary. The dinner will be cooked and served by a local W.I. member, Dorothy Burnett, our W.I. secretary, who also runs a catering business.

We continue to have a very lively membership of about 40 and an interesting and informative programme of talks and visits. The speaker for September 12th is Barbara Weaver on the Art of Handwriting Analysis.

Macmillan's Greatest Coffee Morning

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ANIMAL FEEDS



COUNCILLORS' NOTES

Community Grants and Community Development Grants are available from the District Council to help local village initiatives and community groups in South Cambridgeshire. Broadly speaking, Community Grants can be applied for to help such things as arts, sports and village facility initiatives and to help talented young people pursue a sport or activity in which they have achieved a distinguished standard. Further information can be obtained from Jane Thompson tel. 01223 724148, Jane Lampshire (sports) tel. 01223 724149, or Andy O'Hanlon (arts) tel. 01223 724143.

Community Development Grants are aimed at enabling local community groups to plan and implement community development based projects. Further information about these can be obtained from Gerry Lambert tel. 01223 724155.

Your local councillors can also provide useful information and may be able to help in supporting applications for particular projects.

The Local Government Commission for England is currently reviewing the boundaries of electoral wards in South Cambridgeshire, with a view to evening out as far as possible the number of electors per councillor across the district. Currently Cottenham and Rampton are in one ward and arguments have been put forward to the Commission locally for retaining the links between the two villages.

However, because of problems posed by the growing population of Cottenham, the District Council's official proposal to the Commission splits the existing ward, with Rampton going into a ward with Willingham and Over, and Cottenham being combined with part of Oakington. An alternative scheme submitted by a cross-party group of District Councillors suggests combining Cottenham, Rampton and the whole of Oakington into a new ward which would be represented by three councillors.

The commission is currently considering all the representations made to it and expects to publish its draft recommendations later in the year.

My surgery continues on the third Friday of each month from 5:30pm. – 6:30pm. in the Communal Room, Franklin Gardens – or I am always happy to be contacted at home (details on back cover).

Rex Collinson

The long-awaited revision of Planning Policy Guidance Note 8, which had been in force since 1992, was published on 22 August 2001. It encapsulates recommendations made by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones in the Stewart Report that came out on 11 May 2000, including acceptance of a precautionary approach to concerns about the health implications of long-term exposure to low-level radio-frequency radiation.

The Government's policy is to facilitate the growth of new and existing systems. For a region so dependent as ours on high-speed transmission facilities, the glacial progress of broadband coverage is a particular cause for concern.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been ahead of the game, thanks to its establishment at the end of last year of a telecommunications working party, of which I am a member, which meets with representatives of code system operators every six months to discuss roll-out plans and coordinate site sharing opportunities. Nationally, the operators have given a commitment to provide local planning authorities with annual rollout plans for each authority's area.

The original analogue networks have now closed down, having been superseded by Global System for Mobile, or GSM for short. In April 2000 the government auctioned five new licences to third generation (3G) mobile operators, all of whom have adopted the standard known as Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS). The licenses require operators to be able to provide 3G services to 80% of the population by 2007, but roll-out is expected to have to wait for an upturn in the global economy.

The Emergency Services are moving to a Terrestrial Trunk Radio System (TETRA), for which additional base stations will be required. Interactive digital television (IDTV) is also set to revolutionise the way in which public services (as well as information, entertainment and shopping) are provided to us all, and features prominently in the district council's proposals for implementing electronic government by 2005.

The new guidance note coincides with changes to the General Permitted Development Order. These have the effect of extending the period in which a local planning authority can determine whether (amongst other things) a phone mast not taller than fifteen metres requires prior approval of siting or appearance from 42 days to 56 days, as well as requiring the operators to consult landowners and agricultural tenants in advance of submitting their proposals, and requiring the local planning authority both to consult a wide range of interested parties and to take their responses into account in reaching its decision.

Your County Councillor Peter Stroude and I are available for consultation between 5:30pm and 6:30pm on the first Friday of every month in the communal room at Franklin Gardens. Otherwise you can contact us at any time in person or by post, telephone or email. Details are on the back page.

Tim Wotherspoon

Residents cannot fail to have noticed an increased amount of attention to local roads in recent months, with the speed reduction measures in Histon Road, reconstruction and resurfacing of the B1049 through Histon and Impington, and surface dressing of Rampton Road and Twenty Pence Road.

Cambridgeshire County Council as Local Highway Authority aims to maintain highways in a safe condition at the lowest possible cost and at the same time to carry out maintenance work which will enable all publicly maintained highways to withstand the increased usage to which they are being subjected. In February 2001 the Highways Division received its third successive charter mark for excellence.

continued overleaf

continued from previous page

After many years of budget reductions, 2001–2002 is witnessing a significant increase in capital and revenue expenditure on highway maintenance, the latter made possible by the reinvestment of efficiency savings. It is worth comparing our expenditure on highway maintenance per hundred vehicle miles in 2000–2001 with that of neighbouring counties: Cambridgeshire 23p, Norfolk 35p, Hertfordshire 37p, and Bedfordshire 39p.

Principal roads, footways and cycleways are maintained to the intervention standard set out in the Network Management Plan. Other classes of road are maintained to the best possible standard within the available budget. Minor unclassified roads used to receive only minimal maintenance, namely grass cutting and emergency repairs of dangerous potholes (deeper than 50mm), with gully emptying, weed killing and emergency repairs of dangerous footway trips (deeper than 25mm) in urban areas. In exceptional circumstances minor unclassified roads will be resurfaced where this is more economic than continuing repair of dangerous potholes. Minimal maintenance for this category ended in March 2000, and unclassified roads are now showing an improvement in condition over the past couple of years.

It's at this time of year that complaints rise about overgrown brambles and hedges, especially on the cycle path between Cottenham and Rampton. It is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner to trim hedges from the edge of the cycleway once a year. Where the natural hedge line is within half a metre of the edge of the cycleway a second trim will be required and this cut can be allocated from the highways maintenance budget. Arrangements should be made for the district council's contractor to sweep the cycleway after

these operations (this is particularly important for thorn hedges) to a maximum of two sweeps. These two sweeps will be funded by the highway authority and may be in addition to sweeping carried out by the district council to keep the highway clean.

Cycling has been declining in recent years in the UK. Many fit and active residents, however, can vouch for the fact that cycling into and out of Cambridge is often as quick from door to door as going by car - and sometimes faster, especially in the morning and evening peaks.

As last year's controversy generated by "Watchman" demonstrated, the surface of a cycleway is crucial to its acceptability to cyclists. New surfaces should give a good ride quality, being smooth and free from bumps and depressions. Where it is possible for a paving machine and delivery lorries to gain access to a cycleway (for example alongside the carriage-way), hot-laid asphalt should be used between edging strips. Where vehicular access is not possible, textured and smooth bituminous material should be used. It is particularly important that any weeds are killed before resurfacing a cycleway. This justifies the exceptional use of a residual weedkiller applied by an appropriately qualified contractor.

Roadside verges are important for fauna to feed and flora to grow. 52km of verges are protected, and (except for visibility splays) verges are only cut in the autumn after the plants have seeded. An annual cut is important to prevent takeover by hedge scrub at the expense of important grassland sites. Trees too close to the carriageway can cause great damage to the road structure by removing moisture from the sub-soil.

I shall deal with bridges, street lamps, road safety, and winter gritting in the next issue.

Peter Stroude



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BIRD REPORT

I recently came across the first bird book I ever had, and I was surprised to find that one bird, which is very common now, did not appear in the book. It can be seen in woods, fields, gardens and, frequently, on bird tables. It has a distinctive, monotonous call which can become very annoying, particularly in the early morning. Yes, you've got it, it's the collared dove. This bird did not appear in Britain until the 1950s and its amazing expansion throughout the country has never been fully explained.

This led me to thinking about other changes in the bird population over the past ten years. In this area the most obvious increase has been in woodpeckers. Countless people in the village have reported green and great spotted woodpeckers in their gardens. I have always found the green woodpecker particularly interesting. In the North, we used to call it a Yaffle because of its laughing call. Although this bird has the typical woodpecker claw of two at the front and two at the back, to help it climb trees, it spends a lot of time on the ground feeding on ants.

Many people have reported fewer cuckoos this year, reflecting their general decline, although 2000 was a good year. The main reason for this decline seems to be the similar decline in the cuckoo's main foster species, the meadow pipit and the dunnoek, but this is not certain. Curiously there were apparently a lot of cuckoos in the Outer Hebrides this year!

On a more optimistic note, there has been a rapid increase in red kites in Britain. These birds, together with buzzards and ospreys (from Rutland Water), are beginning to move their range eastwards, so that they have occasionally been seen in this area this year. Perhaps we can expect to see more of these wonderful birds in the future. Let's hope so.

Jasper Kay, August 2001

CRIME REPORT

The following is the list of crimes reported in Cottenham for the month of July

Jul-01	High Street	Cycle stolen from outside Co-op
Jul-06	High Street	Telephone box window smashed
Jul-06	High Street	Assault
Jul-10	High Street	Breaking and entering
Jul-10	High Street	Assault
Jul-18	Coolidge Gardens	Vehicle theft
Jul-21	Long Drove	Vehicle theft
Jul-25	Rampton Road	Vehicle windscreen smashed
Jul-26	Beach Road	Mobile phone stolen from vehicle
Jul-26	High Street	Cycle stolen from outside Co-op
Jul-27	Lambs Lane	Cycle Stolen
Jul-30	High Street	Fire door forced, spirits/alcohol taken

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AN ODE TO JOLLY JACK

The horse and mule live thirty years and nothing know of
wines and beers.

The goat and sheep at twenty die with n'er a taste of
Scotch or Rye.

The cow drinks water by the ton and at eighteen it's
mostly done.

The pig on skim will fatten fast but all too soon will
cease to gasp.

The dog at sixteen cashes in without the aid of one
Pink Gin.

The cat in milk and water soaks and then in twelve short
years it croaks.

The modest, sober, bone dry hen lays eggs for Noggs, then
dies at ten.

All animals are strictly dry. They sinless live and
swiftly die.

But sinful, ginful, rum-soaked men survive for three score
years and ten.

While some of us, the mighty few, stay pickled 'till we're
ninety two.

Old Salt

Little birds of the sky
You seem to fly so very high
Away you go and back again
Just to sing a sweet refrain
You're such a delight to hear
Because you are so full of cheer

Mrs Bridie Rowell

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!

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. 66) should span the last week of November and the months of December and January.

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NEWS FROM THE FEN EDGE PATCH

Laurie Holloway has kindly agreed to play at Cottenham Village College with his trio Dave Olney, a Cottenham resident (double bass), and Martin Drew (drums). This will take place on Friday October 9th at 8:00pm.

Laurie Holloway is a musical genius. He composes, arranges, and is possibly the finest accompanist in this country. He is also a great soloist in his own right. He has written, played for and been musical director to a host of stars, including Judy Garland and Liza Minelli, Dame Cleo Laine, Englebert Humperdinck and more recently Dame Kiri Tikanawa and Elaine Page. He had a long association with Stephan Grapelli and with many other notable jazz musicians, including John Dankworth, as well as light entertainment personalities such as Bob Monkhouse, Ronnie Corbett, Rolf Harris and Dame Edna Everage.

He has appeared with the LSO, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic and the Royal Opera House Orchestra as both conductor and featured pianist. He has composed many long running TV themes and been musical director for many TV shows. Today TV viewers will recognize him as the Musical Director of the 'Parkinson' series.

Laurie has been awarded the Gold Badge of Merit by the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters and was recently the subject of 'This Is Your Life'. The trio's latest CD is 'Live At Abbey Road' and was recorded in the studio used by the Beatles.

Tickets are available from Cottenham Village College, but as this concert is likely to be very popular, early booking is advised. £10.00, £8.50 concessions

We are planning a dance residency with Kenneth Tharp, of Arc Dance Company. The first part will be held in Fen Edge Patch in October and will feature workshops followed by an evening showcase on Saturday, October 20th at Cottenham Village College. The second part will link with a performance at the Arts Theatre in Cambridge during the week of March 18th 2002.

All this sounds very exciting. Arc is a contemporary dance company who adapt well-known stories with an exciting and highly individual approach. Kenneth will lead workshops that will appeal to a wide range of dance enthusiasts: primary school children, Village College students and adults. Kenneth is particularly interested in involving more boys and men in dance. The company is at present working to involve groups from many diverse backgrounds (schools/prisons). This is a wonderful opportunity for us to work with a top class dancer to build on the dance workshops that we held last spring, which proved very popular. The whole project will help to develop the growing interest in dance in our area, among both participants and audience.

Gruffalo is coming! We are lucky to have high-quality children's theatre touring in Fen Edge Patch. This new imaginative play was adapted from the winning Blue Peter best picture book. A mouse can scare away hungry animals with his made up stories of the terrifying GRUFFALO – but what happens when he comes face to face with the very creature he imagined? "A modern classic" (The Observer). The show takes place on Saturday, October 20th at Willingham School at 3:30 p.m. It lasts 45 minutes, and is highly suitable for all young children aged 3–8 years. Tickets from the primary school 01954 283030 and Village College 01954 288750.

Are you looking for that magical moment when, for a modest outlay, you can experience the thrill of receiving the unexpected? Lottery winner – highly unlikely. Premium Bond jackpot – improbable. But something special from the 'Auction of Promises' – now that's a distinct possibility. We'll be inviting you to join us at our Auction on Friday, November 30th at the Village College, when we hope to be able to offer Lots to suit all tastes and interests. A lively and convivial evening should enable us to raise enough to stimulate a continuing development of Arts in the Community. Now, of course, we need to begin gathering in the 'promises'. If any of you think that you can help by offering something, particularly if it has an 'arty' flavour, please contact Jenny Kay c/o the Village College. See you in November.

There will be a Quiz Night on Friday November 16 at Cottenham Village College. Teams of six at £5 per person (refreshments included). Opens at 7:30pm for 8:00pm start. Six bottles of wine to the winning team.

continued on next page

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Last October, we held a very successful Threaded Art Exhibition, linked with a residency with textile artist Michael Brennand-Wood. These events proved that many people wanted to come to Cottenham Village College to enhance their interest in textiles.

We are now planning a major textile weekend called "Textiles in Focus" for February 22/23/24, 2002. Threaded Art will exhibit again, along with other top textile artists. There will be a wide variety of two-hour workshops led by top quality textile tutors, demonstrations, many traders with exclusive stalls, a competition and refreshments. The highlight of the weekend will be a lecture from a well-known textile artist.

Other workshops will be planned during the spring term, expanding the theme of textiles and building on the proven popularity of Cottenham Village College as a centre for textile events.

Coming to Cottenham Village College in March 2002, the well known Radio Cambridgeshire presenter Nick Barrouclough is joined by talented friends for an evening of music which will be extremely popular with many residents of Fen Edge Patch. Look out for details nearer the time.

Booking Office for all Arts Events: Cottenham Village College CB4 8UA, Telephone 01954 288750

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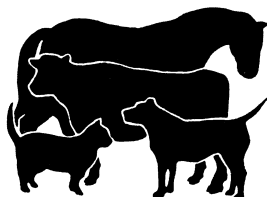


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COTTENHAM VILLAGE SOCIETY

The Cottenham Village Society was set up in 1970 as one of hundreds of amenity societies as a result of encouragement from the Department of the Environment. The aim was to encourage a practical awareness and participation in all aspects of our village community. Although the majority of these newly founded societies have foundered, The Cottenham Village Society is now in its 31st year.

At the Society meetings from September to April we have speakers talking about various subjects; last season for example: Antiques, The history of Marshalls of Cambridge, The history of sewing machines and famous fen people; this season: among others will be Astronomy, The history of Addenbrookes Hospital and slide shows of Cottenham (see Village Diary for details).

In December we held a Christmas party at the Old Rectory by kind permission of the Cann family.

Our summer programme consisted of a guided walk in May, an outing to Denver Sluice in June and a barbecue in July. After the great success of the talk about the history of Marshalls of Cambridge, a provisional booking has been made for a visit to Marshalls in June 2002.

We have a membership of more than a hundred, most of whom have supported the Society for years, and we would like to appeal to any residents, but particularly younger residents, to come and join us. Those residents who have moved to the new housing estates in Broad Lane and Beach Road will be specially interested in the slide shows of Cottenham in November, to be given by Francis Garrett and Mervyn Haird. This will consist of slides from long ago compared with the same view taken more recently.

Our meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at the Lambs Lane Primary School at 7:45pm. The annual fee is £3 a year (visitors £1). Contacts are: Anne Wright, Treasurer (tel.: 01954 250826), or Maire Collins, Secretary (tel.: 01954 200873, e-mail: mmc24@hermes.cam.ac.uk).

We welcome anyone who thinks they might like to join the Society and extend a special invitation to newcomers to the village. Do come and join us.

Maire Collins

Cambridge Cabinet Makers

COTTENHAM CRICKET IN GREAT SHAPE AFTER FINE SEASON

On May 5th, Cottenham Cricket Club's 1st team embarked on its first ever season in the CCA Senior League with a mixture of excitement, anticipation and, perhaps deep down, just a little apprehension. There were a few old sages in the village who doubted the side's ability to cope at this level but, even though this team was only recently playing in Div 4 of the Junior League, we were all confident that our players could compete. And now we know that this confidence was not misplaced – we have competed and, more than that, done really well. Indeed, from the halfway point of the season, the team was well in contention for a fourth successive promotion year to Div 1 of the Senior League (what an achievement that would have been!), but some narrow defeats, when players were missing, set us back. In the end, we just missed out on a promotion place, finishing fourth in a Division of 10 clubs. That's a pretty good effort and one which, now we have established ourselves, allows us to set our sights on performing even better next summer.

Skipper Paul Ellsmore has led the team in every match and regular players have included Matt Bridger, John Bowstead, Steve Halkyard, Paul Laston, Ben Lawrence, Dave Partridge, Graham Partridge, Nigel Partridge, Jamie Taylor, Chris Tuck and Nigel Wynn. Jonathan Moseley joined us halfway into the season and has done well, Matt Talaga has also played a few games and our Chairman, Nigel Lawrence, has always been there when we needed him.

As well as wanting the 1st team to establish itself at Senior level, we also wanted the 2nd team to gain promotion from Division 3 North of the Junior League. This was because, firstly, we were confident the team was good enough and, secondly, we were keen to narrow the gap in playing standard between the 1st's and 2nd's. After a poorish start, a great run of wins enabled us to clinch promotion, as Division runners-up, in the very last game of the season.

The team was led for the first time by John White and the regular players have been Mark Bird, James Crouchman, Keith Dalton, Glen Griffiths, Jay Howes, Alex Richards, Matt Stocker, Matt Talaga and Andy Wake. Tim Adams, Mark Payne, Jonathan Moseley and Jon Wall have also played. Mick Dean (our Secretary) was also having a great season with the ball until it was unfortunately curtailed by a back injury.

The 2nd's also had a fine run in the Lower Junior Cup, reaching the semi-final when they played away against Whittlesford II. Chasing 216 to win, we started well but gradually fell behind the asking rate. It looked hopeless with 45 runs needed off three overs but vice-captain Jay Howes, supported by Jon Wall, batted brilliantly to leave us needing four off the last ball, which we just couldn't manage. All our players, though, could feel justifiably very proud indeed of their efforts for Cottenham.

The future of cricket in the village largely lies with our youngsters and this year we ran junior teams at under 11, under 12, under 13 and under 14 level. Although the under 11's finished bottom of their division, they still managed to win a couple of games and, of those that were lost, some were by very narrow margins. They could have easily finished halfway up the league. Considering it was the first year that many of the boys had played competitive cricket, they did extremely well.

After a shaky start to the season, having lost their first three games, the under 12's managed to win half their games to finish half-way in their league. Again they lost two games by only a few runs. Jonathan Browne scored two half centuries for the under 12's – the first junior player to achieve this in the three years we have been running junior sides.

The under 13's had a great season, finishing second in their league having only lost to Milton, who won the league. It was a great team effort with every player making a contribution.

As with the under 12's, the under 14's lost their first three games this season but then won their remaining fixtures to finish a very creditable second. Again, this was a fine team effort with everybody making valuable contributions.

The costs of operating in the Senior League have proved, as expected, quite high, but we are very grateful for the way local businesses have rallied round and supported the club. Special mention must go to Nigel Bolitho, whose Financial Advisory business sponsored our cricket balls for the season. With a new ball needed for every game, home and away, that was a great boost for us. In addition, the new Indian restaurant in the village, the Curry Palace, provided us with sponsored shirts emblazoned with the club badge. This definitely gave all the players a psychological boost when taking the field – difficult to explain and describe but it was certainly there. In addition, the Sports and Social Club generously provided the club with funds for new kit, which was a great

continued on next page

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continued from previous page

help to us. Catlings Chartered Surveyors and the Cambridge Building Society provided further financial support, for which we are extremely grateful. It is really very encouraging to see local businesses supporting our efforts to provide a high standard of cricket in the village and long may it continue.

Cottenham cricket is in great shape at the moment and, having got the club to this position, everyone at the club is determined to continue our progress next season.

Dave Partridge (Vice-Chairman)



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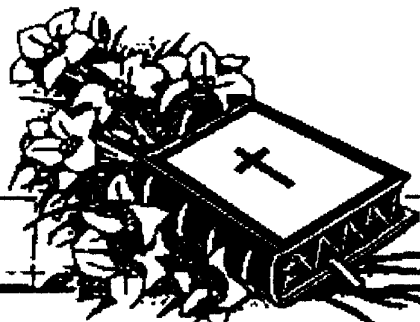
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LETTERS to the Editors

Dear Editor

Cam Sight Door to Door Collections in Cottenham

We would like to thank everyone in Cottenham who contributed to our yearly door to door collections. We raised over £400.

We need more volunteers to help with our door to door collections in the village; it is only once a year and your collection would be in your own road/street.

Please give us a ring on 01223 420033 if you could give a little time to help raise much needed funds for Visually Impaired People in Cambridgeshire.

Yours faithfully

Deborah Loveluck
Fund-Raising Manager

Dear Editor

I recall that your columnist, the Watchman, upset a large number of cyclists a while back by suggesting that they should use the cycle path between Cottenham and Histon.

If I remember correctly, the cyclists replied that their reasons for ignoring the cycle path were twofold: (1) the path is full of pot holes; (2) at night, oncoming car lights blind the cyclist using the cycle path.

On a fine Thursday evening in late July, my wife and I cycled to Histon and back, using the cycle path. I would like to pass on two observations.

We encountered no potholes. The cycle path seemed to provide a perfectly adequate surface for cycling. On the round trip, in broad daylight, we counted nine other cyclists, but only one of them was using the cycle path.

Headlights were clearly not a problem, since it was daylight, and the surface of the cycle path was quite reasonable. Yet

Deadline

**FOR NEXT ISSUE
25th OCTOBER**

eight out of nine cyclists encountered were riding in the roadway.

Why do they do this?

Yours etc

Name and address supplied

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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.

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Contact Peter Robertson on
01954 200080

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police.....	Community Beat Officer.....	01223 358966
	Central Control.....	01480 456111
Doctors.....	Dr. Julie Gould, 188 High Street.....	250079
	Dr. M. Grande, 42 Telegraph Street.....	251180
Community Nurses.....	Answerphone or between 1.00 - 2.00 pm.....	251071
Cottenham CareCar.....	Co-ordinator, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.....	251837
Cottenham Day Centre.....	Mrs. M. Gilbey, 45 Victory Way.....	251802
Cottenham Helpline.....	Co-ordinator, Monday/Friday (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....	201590
	Wednesdays (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....	250937
Cottenham Toy Library.....	Carol Grange.....	251528
Dentist.....	Mr. Faber, Old Telephone Exchange, 40 Margett Street.....	251696
Chemist.....	Cooperative Pharmacy Cottenham, 222 High Street.....	250556
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 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, e-mail: peter@stroude.fsbusiness.co.uk.....	01954 780008
British Red Cross.....	Cambridge Office.....	01223 354434
Citizens Advice.....	CAB, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.....	01223 353875
Social Services.....	Histon Team.....	01223 264466
Mobile Warden Service.....		251182
NSPCC.....	Cottenham Area Team, Peterborough.....	01733 558245
RSPCA.....	Area Number, Peterborough.....	0990 555999
Samaritans.....	Cambridge Centre.....	01223 364455
Railway Station.....	Cambridge, Passenger Enquiries.....	0345 484950
Taxi.....	Pegasus Taxi.....	01954 261324
Library.....	Margett Street.....	273322
Library Doorstep Service.....	Hilary Firth.....	01223 715715
Parish Church.....	The Rectory, 6 High Street.....	250454
Baptist Church.....	Rosa Hunt (Church Secretary) 62 Wilkin Walk.....	205059
Methodist Church.....	The Rev'd. Cynthia Hardiman, Wesley House, 250 High Street.....	250242
Salvation Army.....	Cpts. Ken and Jill Bartlett, 15 Pelham Close.....	250524

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