

AND THEN IT RAINED!

It's been a funny old time recently, what with the torrential rain and flooding but with the warmest October since records began. At this rate I'm not sure whether I am in East Anglia or East India in the rainy season!

One heartening tale I heard of the floods involves a lady in Broad Lane. In the course of that Sunday when it was raining cats and dogs, Broad Lane became badly flooded. Our heroine took the initiative and, using her own rods, unblocked the drain on Broad Lane that was causing the problem. Residents watched as the flood disappeared in a short time. This is a regular problem in Broad Lane and the lady clearly knew what she was doing. This is not a general call for widespread flood action on all our parts, but hats off to good old Cottenham self sufficiency!

The flooding has come at a time to focus attention on the developers plans for a new village between Oakington and Longstanton (Oakstanton as Tim Wotherspoon refers to it inside). The risk of flooding is one of the major arguments against the development. This one is commented on inside by a number of our regular contributors. It is an issue which will have an affect on Cottenham, not least because of the extra traffic it will generate in the area. But at the same time houses need to be built somewhere and a brown(ish) field site like the old barracks and airfield seems like an appropriate place for the development. The important thing is to keep abreast of the developments and ensure that whatever happens, it happens with our full knowledge (if not agreement).

Unfortunately, October finished on a bit of a low note. Halloween, which should be fun for all, got a bit out of hand here in Cottenham as it did in many other places. Trick or treat is not an excuse for demanding money with menaces. Bands of kids armed with flour bombs and eggs, defacing property and frightening vulnerable residents is not acceptable behaviour at any time.

Please make sure in future that if your children are out and about on Halloween they are properly supervised (as many were this year). If they are heading out with flour and eggs then it might be worthwhile asking them what they are planning to do with them. If the response does not involve baking then maybe a firm word would be in order. Please excuse the sermonising, but there was a lot of damage done and some elderly people living alone were genuinely frightened.

Finally, on behalf of the *Newsletter* team, I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous and flood free new year.

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VILLAGE DIARY

December

- 1st Salvation Army, Jumble Sale, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am – 11:30am
11th Cottenham Parish Council Meeting, Cottenham Village College, 7:30pm
12th Cottenham WI, Quiz Night, Franklin Gardens Community Centre, 7:30pm
13th Fen Edge Community Association, Flamenco Evening, Ploughman Hall Willingham 7:30pm
14th Cottenham Seniors Club, Christmas Party and Entertainment, Common Room, Cottenham Village College, 2:30pm
16th 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.
18th Christmas Carol Concert, the Green, 6:30pm
31st Fen Edge Community Association, New Year's Eve Ceilidh, Village college

January

- 9th Cottenham WI, A scarf tying session by Julie Johns, Franklin Gardens Community Centre,
11th Cottenham Seniors Club, Age concern winter wise – a talk by Dawn Long, Common Room, Village College 2:30pm
11th Cottenham Village Society, Dr Seaman: History of Addenbrookes Hospital, Cottenham Primary School, 7:45pm
25th Cottenham Seniors Club, Grafham Water History by Michael Dean, Lecture room, Village College 2:30pm
25th Cottenham Gardeners Club, New Year Party, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm

SMALL ADS

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.....
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PAY NOW, HEAR LATER

The call came just in time to catch me before I left, moments later and I would have avoided the Tower Captain's summons and subsequent demand that I "Write an article about the fundraising for the next magazine". What an honour.

You may know that the bells and bell frame in All Saints Church are showing their age and require some major work both in terms of actual renovation/replacement and fundraising. With the PCC's approval the gallant band of bellringers are determined to raise the necessary £35,000. Even at the outset savings of £7,000 were made on the total project cost of around £42,000, by the bellringers volunteering to provide the contractor's workmen lodgings during their stays in Cottenham. Several of us have also agreed to be gofers to minimise labour costs. Nonetheless there remains a significant sum to be found. There are items that the ringer cannot provide, like transportation of the bell, to and from the Loughborough bellfoundry. There may be something you can do. Read on.

I have given the subject a great deal of thought – four minutes worth at least – and concluded that I would fall back on my office skills and employ the principle of Business Excellence to try to explain why you should consider helping to meet the sum required.

You must not see this as just another appeal to relieve you of your hard-earned money but rather as an opportunity to invest in the future and guarantee that the coming generations will have the opportunity to hear the bells rung for services, weddings and various other special occasions. So sit back, close your eyes, loosen your pockets and let your mind drift while you ask yourself why you live in the village and what gives Cottenham its character. You will conclude that part of this is the mix of old and new, with certain traditions and events spanning the years, providing a link with the past while looking to the future. The village church, with the classic sound of the bells, is an integral part of the village identity and has been over the centuries.

The bells and bell frame last had significant work done in 1800 when the bells were re-cast and re-hung. The expense, in real terms, would have been just as significant then, yet the cost was met by that generation to ensure that they and future generations within the village would continue to benefit from the sound of the bells enriching the environment.

But the bellringers are not just asking you to invest painlessly, we are determined that you enjoy yourselves in the process. Thus a wide tapestry of events are planned to enable everyone to come together, and enjoy themselves during the event, while investing in the future.

Keep your eyes open and attend as many of the events as possible, you cannot lose.

Pete Brown

MENCAP CYCLE

I recently moved to Cottenham from Wembley after graduating from Brunel University in 2000. From February 17th – 24th 2002, I will be cycling alongside the river Nile in Egypt for Mencap. Mencap is the largest organisation in the UK caring and campaigning for people with learning disabilities (mental handicap).

The trip is an eight-day, 420 km ride from Luxor to Aswan and back through some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world. Highlights including the Temple of Edfu, the Tomb of Tutankhamun and the Aswan dam.

I have already paid £250 towards the cost of this ride and have pledged to raise £1950. This will allow Mencap to reach more children and adults with learning disabilities through vital services. This includes an expansion of its family support and advisory services. If you would like to find out more about Mencap, their web-site www.mencap.org.uk is very informative.

I would appreciate it if you would consider helping me meet my pledge for Mencap. Any sponsorship would be gratefully received. If you own a business, perhaps you would consider sponsoring me via that route. There would be benefits in doing this. For example I would be willing to wear a promotional T-shirt while training in the local area.

Feel free to contact me at anytime regarding this event if you feel you can help in anyway. My mobile no. is 07968 034395. You can reach me in the evenings on 01954 200932 as well and my e-mail address is: me96kka@yahoo

Keith Allen

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SEA-SURFING

On the weekend of the 29th/30th of September a group of 12 kayakers from the Cottenham and Rampton Scout and Guide Canoe Club went to Norfolk to sea-surf for the 4th year in succession. After booking in to the local campsite we were all ready to see what the waves were like, having watched all the weather forecasts during the previous week in the hope that there would be northerly winds to assist the surf. We were not disappointed as the waves were up to two metres in height, which is the best it has been for the last four years. This allowed those who had not surfed before to do so on the small waves and let the experienced surfers go on the big ones. We were able to enjoy the waves from 15:30 to 19:00 hours when the light began to fade. Four parents came along to help and were kept busy, especially on the Saturday, emptying out some of the kayaks following a capsizing. On the Sunday morning high tide was at 06:53. We, well apart from those who were a bit slow to wake up – no names mentioned – Paul, Pauline and Andrew, were on the water at 05:45 as the sun started to rise. It is always a fantastic moment when you are looking for your first wave and the sun starts to appear over the horizon. Each year a seal comes and swims around just off shore from where we are surfing, perhaps too shy to join in but I'm sure it could teach us a thing or two about rolling in the waves. The parent helpers were not so busy on the Sunday as the surfers were learning how to cope with those waves. Surfing continued until 08:15 and it was then time for a large cooked breakfast. We were using equipment purchased with the money (£4600), which was donated by Awards for All to the Cottenham and Rampton Scout and Guide Canoe Club.

Canoeing, or as we call it kayaking, is available to all Guides and Scouts in Cottenham. We kayak during the summer term on a Wednesday night. The teaching is supervised by the British Canoe Union qualified coaches and BCU examinations are taken at the end of the summer term. Many girls and boys go on to join local canoe clubs.

Ian Griffiths

MOBILE WARDEN

Could you spare an hour or two, three to four times a year to help on the committee of the Mobile Warden Scheme? We oversee and support Madeleine Bird in her task of contacting, visiting and helping elderly residents in their homes. We would especially appreciate people with computer access and administrative skills, but need other people as well.

If you can help, please contact: Sue Gilkison 01954 201011 or Denise Peck 01954 250679

SENIORS CLUB

Why not come and join Cottenham Seniors Club to make new friends and enjoy an interesting programme of activities. We meet on alternate Fridays in 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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WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE....

Prior to the 1850s it was not realized that water supply and water disposal were one problem and that a contamination cycle was happening. Typhoid fever is caused by the bacterium salmonella typhi, which is contracted by the ingestion of food or drinking water contaminated by human sewage. Patients can carry organisms for many years and even for life.

Outbreaks of typhoid fever continued to occur throughout ensuing years, being especially severe in 1857. There were 26 deaths in Cottenham in the 25 years leading up to the time when things came to a head in March 1885, seven weeks after a new outbreak of the fever. There were 65 cases with six deaths. Chesterton Rural Sanitary Authority met and the Medical Officer, Dr Anningson, gave a full report on the epidemic. He said that, with two exceptions, all cases were at Church-End and could be connected with the infected area. The seven cases which occurred before January broke out in the houses at the two extremities of Whitehead's or Smith's path, a long narrow footway leading from High Street, Church End, towards Malting Fields. In subsequent weeks cases occurred in homes originally attacked and in an almost continuous line along the High Street towards the Church. In-as-much as one of the houses earliest attacked was a dairy, it was thought that milk was infected but this proved negative on analysis.

Dr Anningson concluded that an examination of the water distribution afforded an explanation of the progress of the epidemic. Part of the village was on gault and part on greensand. That part on greensand could obtain a supply of wholesome water if uncontaminated by sewerage, whilst the remainder, namely Church End, the seat of the epidemic, was on a layer of gault. In order to supply that part of the village by an easy method, several private water companies had put down pipes from the greensand bed called Malting Springs, in the higher lying part of the village, to a series of wells made in the gault, which were thus really underground reservoirs, from which the water was lifted by pumps. The line of the march of the epidemic followed, with one or two exceptions, the supply of these companies and could be traced to the fact that the water supply in question was brought in drain pipes laid some 40 years before, from the source at Malting Springs to the top of Whitehead's path,

down the High Street, then along the street nearly to the Church, supplying a number of wells en-route. The sanitary condition of Whiteheads path was as bad as could be. There seemed little doubt that sewerage matter could, and did, percolate into the porous and badly jointed water pipes and that the typhoid bacteria, once introduced, was easily carried from one well to the next.

Samples of water from wells throughout the village were tested. The first taken from the top of Whitehead's path was seriously polluted. Twenty-seven wells in all were tested, of which eighteen were unfit for drinking. Four of seven wells from Green End were good; two wells were good from eight samples in the centre of the village; whilst at Church End, on a line of the area affected, of twelve samples nine were bad. The Medical Officers' report suggested that immediate measures needed were: 1) The stopping of milk sales by the infected dairies. 2) The supply of pure water by cart. 3) An abundant supply of disinfectants for public and private use, and 4) The provision of four nurses to take charge of the sick. He asked the Authority to insist upon a proper system of drainage and scavenging and a system of water supply which could be placed above suspicion. As it was, about half the village's waste water was drained into a ditch that went down Landbeach Road.

A vestry meeting was immediately called to consider the improvement of the water supply. The rector, the Rev. F. Barker, reminded the assembly that he had called a meeting sixteen months earlier when they had decided to do nothing about an improved water supply. He had then said that he hoped they would never live to regret it. Dr Anningson attended the meeting, although at first he was refused entry. He reported that the Maltings water was pure and the pump at the Green End fit for drinking purposes. The latter, he thought, was better, and recommended that water be carted from the Green End pump to the infected area. It was proposed that all the wells in the parish be tested before going any further, but as there were 400 wells and, at a cost of ten shillings and sixpence apiece, it was thought too costly. Finally, it was agreed to form a committee of 24 members including the Parochial Council.

Cottenham people, on the whole, still had not realised that the cause of the fever was from drinking impure water. I have been told that at a funeral, such was their fear of catching the disease, that on the coffin of a victim were placed four pipes filled with tobacco together with a box of matches. The bear-

continued overleaf

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FREE ESTIMATES



continued from previous page

ers then lit their pipes before picking up the corpse and must have presented a strange sight on the way to the interment.

Another example of scepticism was a letter from a "Ratepayer" to the Independent Press, dated March 1885, in which he expressed his opinion as follows:

"I do not believe the water to be the cause of the epidemic and would ask the medical gentlemen, who have stated that it is, to explain how it is that typhoid fever makes its attacks on the cottage where, possibly, the sanitary arrangements are not perfect and in the palace where the sanitary arrangements are in the best possible condition. Medical men are not infallible and their testimony as to the cause of the fever is just so much medical nonsense"

A period of great hardship now began for those with infected wells at Church End. Little did they know that it would last nearly 20 years, putting out, each day, a pail on the doorstep to receive pure water from the water cart.

The above is largely an extract from "Troubled Waters" – by Olwyn Peacock published by the Cottenham Village Society. This is one of a number of publications from the Village Society on aspects of Cottenham History. We plan to run some more extracts from the series in the future. The full publications make fascinating reading and can be obtained from Shaun's Newsagents on the High Street.

HADDENHAM STUDIO EVENTS

Christmas Cornucopia, 24th November – 23rd December, 10:00am – 5:00pm every day.

A festive show of unusual gifts for Christmas from 35 artists, including paintings, prints, jewellery, ceramics, wood, glass and textiles. A great opportunity to buy something special.

Christmas activities workshop for children aged 7–11 years (year 2 upwards)

£8 per child, £6 for other children from the same family.
Saturday 17th November 10:00am – 3:00pm

Sunday 9th December 10:00am – 5:00pm – the **Recycling Bus** will be at the gallery. Children will be able to make pop-up cards while you shop in the gallery. Children must be accompanied. No need to book.

Painting and drawing workshops to brighten up Saturday mornings 10:00am – 12:30pm for children aged 7–11 years (year 2 upwards). £5 per child, £4 for other children from the same family. Saturdays 12th, 19th, and 26th January.

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CRICKET AWARDS

On October 9th, Cottenham Cricket Club held its 'Player of the Year' awards evening at the Curry Palace. Chairman Nigel Lawrence praised the players of both the 1st and 2nd XI's – both having had excellent seasons – the 1st team narrowly missing out on promotion to Senior 1 and the 2nd's gaining promotion to Junior League Division 2. He hoped that the first team could go a step further next summer and that the seconds could continue their progress up the Junior League – there was no reason why this couldn't be achieved if the players of both teams stayed together and played with the same enthusiasm and commitment as they had shown in 2001.

The award for first team player of the year went to skipper Paul Ellsmore who topped both the batting and bowling averages. He was the clear winner of the players' poll with Chris Tuck coming second and Matt Bridger third.

The second team award went to Matt Talaga who was the club's top scorer for the season with 464 runs including five scores of over 50. Vice-captain Jay Howes and skipper John White came second and third respectively. Matt also received the 'Clubman of the Year' award for his dedicated efforts, over several seasons, in helping to coach and run the club's junior teams. The progress that our youngsters, from under-11 upwards, are making is in no small measure down to Matt's sterling work.

Fielding is a vital part of the modern game and the Fielding Cups went to Paul Laston (first team) who held a series of excellent catches throughout the season, and Jay Howes (second team) whose enthusiasm and commitment in the field set a great example to his team-mates all summer.

The award for the Most Improved Player went to 2nd team wicket-keeper John Mayes. His performances behind the stumps were of such a consistently high level all summer that he was described as the best 'keeper in Division 3 'by a mile'.

The Chairman gave special thanks to those who had sponsored and supported the club – financial adviser Nigel Bolitho, Gerry Bate, the Curry Palace, Cottenham Sports and Social Club, Catlings Chartered Surveyors and the Cambridge Building Society. He also paid tribute to the work of Neville Rice and club member Paul Laston for their

hard work on the square at Lambs Lane which has improved noticeably in recent years. The club is certainly indebted to the Parish Council for its commitment to the maintenance and improvement of the playing conditions at the recreation ground, which are so important both for the continued success of the club and the encouragement of cricket in the village.

HELP!

As a large and growing village, Cottenham has two Rainbow, three Brownie and two Guide Units. Like most things in the village we are struggling to keep up with demand. The waiting list for girls wishing to join us is large and growing at an astonishing rate. Although those of us already involved are doing our best, we can only do so much.

In order for the girls to enjoy themselves in a safe environment we need at least three adults to be at each unit meeting – not too much to ask is it? However, we need six more to run the existing units! In order to absorb the waiting list, we would also like to start another Rainbow Unit and another Brownie Unit. This will mean finding another six adults. So we are looking for at least 12 additional volunteers!

If you are female and between 18 and 65 and willing to help we would love to hear from you. Anyone wishing to be involved with the units on a weekly basis will be given in-house training. Anyone willing to become involved on a part-time basis would also be most welcome.

There can be room for all the girls of the village in Rainbows, Brownies or Guides but only with extra help. Can that help come from you? We hope so!

Please contact Vivien Lampard tel: 01954 200811 or [vivien.lampard\(c\)ntlworld.com](mailto:vivien.lampard(c)ntlworld.com)
Or Ruth Brown tel: 01954 205024 or Gill Ison tel: 01954 201710.

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IMPRESSIONISM!

The Cottenham Branch of the WEA is looking forward to having Deborah Monteiro as a tutor in the Spring term. Her 10 week course, starting on Tuesday 15 January at 10:00am, is entitled 'From Impressionism to Post Impressionism'. The course contact is Marion Daniels who can be contacted on 01954 252275.

We would also like to encourage everyone to come to the evening course to hear Dr Frances Dipper introduce 'The Wetlands of East Anglia'. This 10 week course starts on Wednesday 16 January at 7:30pm. We will find out what lurks beneath the placid surface of a pond; follow the courses of our rivers; investigate the changing wildlife and history of the broads and fens; and look at our beautiful coastline – from worms to whales!

Both classes will take place at Cottenham Village College. The contact is Liz Milway, Tel: 01954 250039

COTTENHAM DOORWAYS

At the Autumn Show the Cottenham Village Design Group launched a competition to identify ten doorways in the High Street and Rooks Street.

Congratulations to the winners, Mat and Cath Davis of the High Street, who receive a bottle of champagne. Well done Mrs A Maggs of the High Street and Julia Stone of Corbett Street who also correctly identified all ten. The answers were:

High Street 206, 27, 75, 220, 68, 44, 46, 327, and Rooks Street 28 and 42.

Look out for other competitions in the future and if you would like to join the Design Group contact Steve Howie on 01954 250823.

TWINNING NEWS

On the 29th and 30th September, I represented the Fen Edge Patch in a visit to our French twinning partner, Avrillè. Avrillè was having a weekend exhibition in which clubs in the town had stands describing their activities. Their twinning association had invited a small delegation from each of their twinning partners – us, Schwalbach near Frankfurt-am-Main in Germany and Ripollet near Barcelona – so that we could tell prospective punters all about ourselves and the advantages of twinning. I was accompanied by a lady from Schwalbach and three Spaniards. We had a great time and I was interviewed for local radio and by the local newspaper.

Plans were made for the future. We will welcome our French guests the weekend of 18th to 20th May 2002. Twinning exchanges are supposed to have a theme, and the one we have chosen on this occasion is the environment and environmental protection.

One Avrillian club represented at the exhibition was the cycle club. They are keen to make contact with those here interested in cycling, in particular members of a cycling club. In addition, having cycled to both Schwalbach and Ripollet, they would now like to cycle here. They cover about 200km a day and have a van carrying their luggage. There would be a group of about 12, and they would stay from Wednesday to Sunday. They would like to come in June or July next year, and would need accommodation but not entertainment. Anyone who would be interested in meeting them, please let the Twinning Association know.

Steve Howie, Treasurer, Fen Edge Twinning Association, tel: 01954 250823, smh@howies.fsnet.co.uk

MUSIC!

Cottenham based band 'The Usual Suspects' who play hot club jazz and swing will play at the Cambridge Folk Club at the Portland Arms, Mitcham's Corner on Friday 7th December at 8:30pm. Guitars, fiddle, bass and sweet harmonies.



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BIRD REPORT

October is a world of change in the bird world. In spite of the unusually warm first three weeks of the month, the migrating birds were not fooled. It is true that in the early days of October there were some swallows and house martins still in the village. I also heard chiffchaff and willow warbler in our garden. They have all flown south now. On the other hand I am still waiting to see and hear the noisy flocks of fieldfares in Long Drove, although I have seen a few redwings in the churchyard.

Now that the breeding season is over, the sociable birds are flocking together. If you have seen the huge flocks of lapwings on Smithy Fen or Long Drove, you would not believe they are said to be in decline. There are also large flocks of wood pigeons, rooks, crows, jackdaws and starlings, the latter gathering in the evenings in the usual trees in Rooks Street.

In the week beginning October 15th, I kept a bird diary. Here are some of the more interesting entries: in or above the garden – mistle thrush, jay, long-tailed tit, dunnoek, heron, green woodpecker, tawny owl. Smithy Fen – pheasant, partridge, kestrel, skylark, pied wagtail, goldfinch. Churchyard – redwing, mistle thrush, jackdaw. Long Drove – mallard, teal, snipe, lesser black backed gull, black headed gull. I also saw plenty of rabbits, squirrels, a hare and at least four different species of butterfly.

Of course another week might well have produced cormorant, sparrowhawk, great spotted woodpecker and song thrush. It's all in the luck of the draw and that's what makes bird watching so interesting.

Jasper Kay 19 October 2001

PARISH COUNCIL

Although at the time of writing we are wondering if the weather is trying to return the village to the original fen landscape, the Council can at least claim that the climate is one aspect of village life over which it has no jurisdiction at all!

We thought that our repeated pleas to the County Highways Department had finally borne fruit when work started near the famous speed limit signs on Histon Road. Lo and behold, the very next day saw the results – one sign flashing at every vehicle, regardless of speed, and the other ignoring every vehicle, also regardless of speed. No doubt the “spin doctors” would describe this as an improvement of 50%! The saga continues.

The Council's concern about the state of the Ancient Monument (Moat) in Tenison Manor was mentioned in the last issue. Since then, a meeting has taken place between representatives of the Council, Persimmon Homes and South Cambs D. C. The developers do acknowledge their responsibilities under the Section 106 planning agreement and have since informed the Council that they have engaged consultants to advise on the way forward. It should be noted that not only the Ancient Monument is involved. Other areas like the various open spaces on the estate and the “balancing pond” in Broad Lane are also covered by the original planning agreements and the Council has to be satisfied that they will be handed over to the village in good order. For example, the balancing pond, which was intended to handle any surplus surface water run-off from the development and in theory should cope with 100-year peak conditions, overflowed for the fourth time after the recent downpours. We will be in discussion with the relevant authorities to see how the situation can be put right.



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COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

South Cambs District Council has recommended the former Oakington Airfield as the site for a 6,000 home new town. Regional Planning Guidance requires that such a new town should be built close to Cambridge and a number of sites were considered. The town would be linked to Cambridge by a guided bus-way along the route of the old Cambridge to St Ives railway line.

I have joined several other councillors in expressing strong reservations about the proposal, particularly with regard to likely traffic congestion and the possibility of increased risk of flooding in the Cottenham and Rampton area.

Cambridgeshire County Council will make the final recommendation about the site of the new town. Their decision is expected towards the end of November.

In order to deal with problems of staff overcrowding, the district council has decided to move its headquarters to the new village of Cambourne, situated to the west of Cambridge near Papworth. A small public access office will be retained in Cambridge. It is expected that the move will take place in summer 2003.

Cottenham Parish Council has submitted a bid for a traffic speed reduction scheme on Rampton Road. It is hoped that, if the bid is successful, improvements will include road markings to slow traffic, a pedestrian crossing, interactive speed warning signs and, possibly, some improvement to the junction with Oakington Road. Cottenham's request will be considered by the Area Joint Transport Committee on 10th December.

Meanwhile local representatives have continued to press county council officials to get the flashing speed warning signs on Histon Road working. At the time of writing, the sign on the west side of the road is working but needs to be set to flash at the correct speed. County officials have promised that this will be done and the other sign brought into service shortly.

We live in hope!

I continue to hold surgeries to discuss residents' concerns on the first Friday of the month from 6:00pm – 6:30pm in Rampton Village Hall and on the third Friday of the month from 5:30pm – 6:30pm in the Community Room at Franklin Gardens. No appointment is needed. Alternatively, I am always happy to be contacted at home (details on back cover).

May I take this opportunity to wish all residents a very happy Christmas and New Year and to thank you for your help and support during the past year.

Rex Collinson

Oakstanton

Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia, published in November 2000, directed the local authorities of Cambridgeshire, through the development plan process, to identify a location for "a new settlement close to Cambridge" capable of bringing the first of 6,000 new houses to the market by 2006.

Site-specific policies are usually the preserve of the Local Plan, prepared by the district council, but in this case, because of the short timescale and the unprecedented level of detail already prescribed, the choice is being made by the county council in the draft of its revised Structure Plan. Given the far-reaching implications for South Cambridgeshire of a new town, the district council has sought to influence the choice of location by expressing its own preference.

Other options are Waterbeach, Great Abington, Six Mile Bottom, Stretham/Wilburton, Childerley Gate and Belham Hill. As an alternative, the City Council has been advocating an eastward expansion of Cambridge on to Marshall's Airport. At a meeting on 18 October, however, district councillors voted 26–12 in favour of Oakington Barracks, Longstanton. For the sake of abbreviation I use the name "Oakstanton", but I must emphasise that this is totally unofficial and no formal decision has been taken on the name of a new town if it eventually gets the go ahead here.

If there had been an ideal site for a new settlement it would have been settled centuries ago. Oakstanton has been the favourite for many years, nevertheless, and Gallagher Estates and their consultants are well-advanced with preparations. They have bought into the fashion for high-quality public transport with a proposal for the Cambridge Area Metro, which they call SuperCAM, connecting Oakstanton with the Science Park and Cambridge railway station, with new stops planned for Chesterton, Addenbrookes and Trumpington Park and Ride. This idea overlaps with the guided bus element of the CHUMMS preferred plan along the former Cambridge–St Ives railway line. There is also a proposal to provide an extension to the Science Park at Oakstanton.

I have been able to gauge for myself the extent (or otherwise) of local feeling against the scheme at public presentations about Oakstanton hosted by Longstanton and Oakington parish councils. My own view is that Oakstanton represents a tremendously exciting opportunity to create the highest possible quality of life for inhabitants of the new town and the neighbouring villages.

Of course local people are concerned, and we have a duty to protect their interests throughout the construction process. It is worth noting, however, that the local landscape is not the most magnificent, and almost all existing residents of Oakington and Longstanton will experience no change in their immediate outlook. Indeed, Oakington will remain almost exactly the same as it is now. Longstanton is already

set to grow considerably, now that the judicial review of permission for the development at Home Farm and the accompanying by-pass has been rejected. Most settlements have been able to accommodate enlargement during their history, even as rapid as that currently proposed for Longstanton.

The weekend after the vote was something of a wake-up call on the drainage question, of course! 84mm of rain really is an exception, though. Local experts cannot remember an occasion in the past when that quantity of rain has fallen in less than 24hrs. There were problems with private ditches and some houses were flooded because road drains were unable to cope. It was not immediately apparent what had caused the Broad Lane balancing pond to overflow.

Incidents of this kind are going to become more not less frequent over the coming years, with or without a new town. With so many different organisations and individuals having responsibility for ditches and drains there have been calls for preparation of a definitive map of the region's watercourses. One reason why such a register may not have been assiduously kept over the past few decades is precisely because the system has worked so well up to now.

So long as Oakstanton makes the situation no worse than existing it cannot be faulted on drainage grounds. Just before the latest flooding at Oakington and Longstanton, Gallaghers made a possibly rash offer to dig a relief ditch, running north-east from Bar Hill between the two villages. This may work as part of a package of comprehensive flood alleviation measures, but they should also investigate in much greater depth, perhaps literally, the capacity of the site for infiltration and other sustainable drainage solutions.

Tim Wotherspoon

Perhaps I ought to begin with an apology, on behalf of the County Council, for the ludicrous behaviour of the interactive speed signs in Histon Road. After mounting pressure the one for the northbound carriageway was connected in the middle of October, but before being calibrated it was being activated by vehicles moving faster than 26mph. Its twin for southbound traffic steadfastly refused to cooperate.

These delays have been blamed on the merger of Eastern Electricity and London Electricity into 24seven, which has also had a detrimental effect on repair response times for street lamps, despite increased convenience thanks to introduction of the Freefone fault reporting line 0800 253529. 0.37% of the county's 55,000 lighting columns are replaced each year, implying a required column life of 270 years!

Few of the county's 1700 bridges, some of which are scheduled ancient monuments, have collapsed over the past thirty years. At the end of 1998, however, the EU derogation prohibiting 40-tonne heavy commercial vehicles from UK roads expired. This has had serious consequences locally, given the fact, for illustration, that there has been a 47% increase in Heavy Commercial Vehicles on the A14 at Swavesey since 1990.

Maintenance funding has not kept pace and safety factors built into bridge designs are being eroded. In the long term this neglect will lead to deterioration and even failure. Routine maintenance, including cleaning bearings, joints and drainage systems, is the most effective antidote for

future ills and continues on programme. Risk is equal to the product of the likelihood of an unwanted event and its adverse consequences. If the effects are insignificant then the risk is negligible, but in all cases risk increases with the number of vehicles passing over the bridge.

At the meeting of the Environment and Transport committee that considered the Network Management Plan 2001 and the Road Safety Plan 2001, county councillors repeated their disappointment that the Police would not enforce 20mph speed limits. The policy of the county council and the Cambridgeshire Police is that speed cameras will only be employed where there is both a speeding problem and an accident record.

Safer Routes to Schools have social advantages, with parents walking and talking to children and children talking with each other. They offer opportunities for improved health and movement not constrained by cars, as well as less pollution. Cottenham has an exemplary walking bus along the High Street each morning in term time.

Residents will be aware of the petition that has been gathered in support of the parish council's bid for safety measures in the vicinity of the junction of Oakington Road and Rampton Road.

The District Auditor has drawn attention to the high proportion of Cambridgeshire's roads which are included in the precautionary network for winter salting (42% compared with 31% average). There were 44 salting runs during the winter 1999-2000, 10% above the average of 40 over the previous five years. As a result of the very wet winter 2000-2001 there will also be more drainage schemes than in the past few years.

For more information come and meet me and Tim Wotherspoon at our regular surgery, the first Friday of every month, 5:30pm - 6:30pm in the Communal Room at Franklin Gardens. You are also welcome to contact us at any time in person or by post, telephone or email. Details are on the back page.

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CRIME REPORT

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

Broad Lane	Stolen credit card used to obtain goods
Smithy Fen	Assault
Telegraph St	Two builders dust sheets found partially burnt next to wooden garage
High St	Male took packs of cigarettes from shop counter, left store without paying
High St	Assault
High St	Damage to front door frame
Corbett st	Jackets stolen from car (window smashed)
High St	Assault by two females
Corbett St	House bricks stolen from front of property
Church Ln	Stable area entered and horse blankets stolen
Franklin Gdns	Bedroom window smashed
High St	Motorcycle damaged
03 Lambs Ln	Property stolen from car (window smashed)
04 Pelham Cl	Petrol syphoned from fuel tank of car
06 Long Dro	Red diesel stolen from bowser in remote field overnight
06 High St	Window smashed
06 Twentypence Rd	Handbag stolen from car (window smashed)
13 Pelham Cl	Fencing damaged overnight
13 Pelham Way	Car vandalised
19 Village college	Mobile phone stolen from bag in changing room

20 Margett St	Bag stolen from car (window smashed)
21 Rooks St	Bag taken from car
21 Coolidge Gdns	Car stolen
22 High St	Forged Scottish £20 note passed in payment for goods.
23 Village College	Sports equipment vandalised
24 Calvin Close	Window smashed
26 High St	Unlocked bicycle stolen
28 High St	Forced entry and theft
30 Lockspit Hall	Steel post box stolen

Some of the above crimes which do not have a date attached happened at some point during the month of October.

Please note, we seem to have a particularly active car thief in the village to the moment, so beware, don't leave valuables visible in your car.

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. 67) should span the last week of January and the months of February and March.



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NEWS FROM THE FEN EDGE PATCH

Our Fen Edge arts diary is looking full at the moment. In October, we had three events, appealing to different sections of our residents: a very successful concert by the Laurie Holloway trio, a dance residency at Cottenham Village College, which is part of a grand scheme promoted by Cambridge Arts Theatre, and the children's play, 'the Gruffalo', which delighted audiences at Willingham.

Moving into November, we shall be holding our Auction of Promises on November 30th, at the College, with many exciting items to bid for, thanks to generous offers from many individuals and businesses.

December sees a totally new event come to the Ploughman Hall at Willingham, to put us all in the Christmas mood: an exciting evening of Flamenco dance, full of colour and vibrancy. Thursday, December 13th, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available from Cottenham Village College at very reasonable prices for this highly professional performance.

Looking into the new year, our star attraction is a grand Textile weekend, February 22nd/23rd/24th – see inset poster for details. This event is to be advertised nationally, so should attract large numbers of enthusiasts and admiring onlookers from far and near. We do hope to see you there. We shall follow this weekend with a celebrity talk and workshop from the internationally famous Heidi Lichterman, weaver and designer, who has received major commissions

throughout the world. We are lucky enough to have her visit Cottenham Village College in March, to give an illustrated talk, followed by a Sunday workshop on Ikat weaving when participants can produce their own silk dyed work.

As if this was not enough to keep our small planning group busy, we are also holding a concert in March with Nick Barraclough, ex-Radio Cambridgeshire presenter. A very enjoyable evening is promised.

Finally, for all the family, the 'mad' Circus Berzircus' is coming to Waterbeach on Thursday, April 18th. A must for all families who enjoy a show packed with technical skill and chaotic clowning.

If you would like to get involved in helping with our lively programme, in planning or just one-off for a special event, please contact Jenny Kay, on 01954 288750.

The Holly Walk

Our annual Boxing Day walk will start at Cottenham Church at 10.30 a.m. The total distance is about 4 miles, but it is very suitable for families of all ages as the length can be varied to suit little, or elderly, legs! Last year, the group seemed to be larger at the beginning than the end; maybe this was because some stopped off at Twenty Pence Pub! Dogs are also welcome, if kept on leads. Wellies might be best.

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REFLECTIONS...

by Moyra A Borg

Years ago in the 1950s, in Malta, my Dad would borrow his father's horse and cart and use it to take people where they wanted to go. One of his first regular customers was the local Lotto man, who had to take his weekly tickets to the capital city, Valletta, which was about 7 miles away.

A short while afterwards, my father wanted to buy a car. His father gave him £100 and my dad moved up a step... to become one of the few motorists in his village. From then on he kept busy as the local taxi-driver. He was young and fit and worked long hours.

My Dad's Golden Goose was the local teacher training college. He was their taxi-driver and the college kept him busy. The trainee teachers were usually without transport of their own, so Dad was in his element. My mother went out to Malta to teach at the college in 1957.

Her contract was supposed to run until 1960. She used taxis quite a lot so got to know my father through her frequent journeys in his taxi. My father's driving has always been very slow and steady, so no doubt a journey with him would last forever. His nickname in Maltese, apart from Magru meaning the 'thin' one, was Seqru, meaning 'hawk' (hawk-eye). The latter nickname suited him better than the first.

My mum and dad married and in 1962 I was born. Thus the three year contract in Malta turned out to be a lifetime's one for my mother. My brother was born in 1964. Dad's business

flourished and he bought three Triumph Heralds to set up a self-drive car-hire business. This fleet had grown to over 26 cars by the time I left home in 1979. My brother and I were brought up surrounded by cars. We lived over Dad's garage and could identify different makes of cars by their engine noise and the sound of their horns.

Dad serviced them and drove them all himself. He carried on taxi-driving too... all without a two-way radio or any means of communication with home. He hated turning work down, so said 'Yes' to almost all requests for his taxi. This meant that he was frequently running, no I can't say late, well, he was running on Maltese time. 'Come on kids let's go out!' my mother would shout and off we all went... mainly to avoid all the telephone calls from irate customers asking where my father was. We had a wonderful life, especially in the long summer holidays and were hardly ever indoors.

One summer, my mother took us out to a disused airfield and taught us to drive her Mini Moke, an open car which was left-hand drive. Being a junior teacher, my mum did a good job of explaining what we had to do. I was aged about 12 and my brother about 10.

When I had improved a bit, mum would move into the front passenger seat and let me take control on quiet country roads. I would drive along the deserted coast road at Dingli cliffs. Here there was a spectacular view, but also an 800 foot drop a few feet away from the edge of the road. 'Well' said mother 'that should teach you to remember where the ***** brakes are.' These dramatically steep cliffs are often used in filming, when the grand finale shows a car tumble off the edge and fall into the sea! Ah well, when you are a child you do not worry too much about such things!



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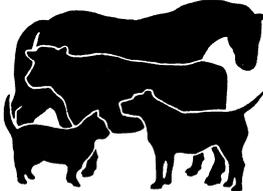
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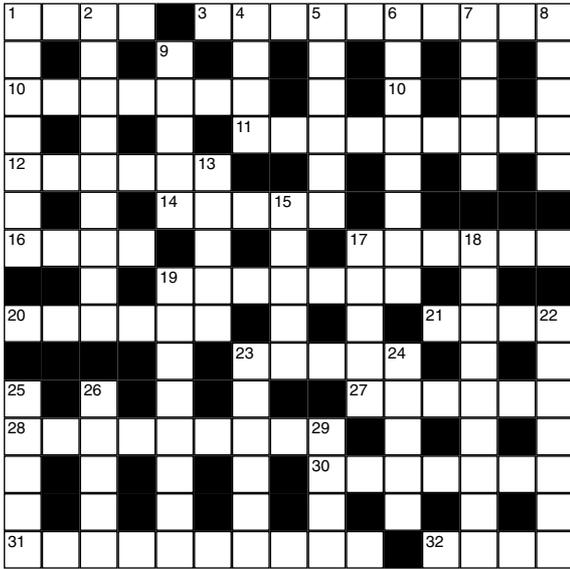


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Crossword

Compiled by Roger Gautrey



ACROSS

- 1 All points bulletin (4)
- 3 Ultimately occasion 'in' friend might attend (10)
- 10 Denounce when a hundred men nod (7)
- 11 Large beverage at 4 o'clock (9)
- 12 Subjects he puts to saint and me (6)

- 14 Herdsman's cooker and workplace (5)
- 16 The ruler wants hoar frost back (4)
- 17 Flower part Stan gave to me (6)
- 19 I feed one hundred in this structure (7)
- 20 Old opera singer, we hear, has the titters (6)
- 21 Have a break from babies nappies (4)
- 23 Course on the coast – no (5)
- 27 Beginner hasn't any fault (6)
- 28 Implements for public scandal – maybe (9)
- 30 Preliminary physical exercise – farce (7)
- 31 Light music for Italian punters (10)
- 32 Test for staying put (4)

DOWN

- 1 Cite Ken as its wearer (7)
- 2 Thinking about rowing den? (9)
- 4 Television points to the chimney (7)
- 5 Have a wee nag about certain type of traveller (6)
- 6 Tuna glue – it could be on the hoof (8)
- 7 Unknown flea in shady suburb possibly (5)
- 8 Give way to harvest (5)
- 9 Divorce from the house version perhaps (5)
- 13 Hair colour for the shore (5)
- 15 Tools for divulging secrets on boats sometimes (5)
- 17 Descendant, grafting slip, heir (5)
- 18 Tend manic beggar maybe (9)
- 19 Open lead door into fictitious country for gold (2, 7)
- 22 Stop before the aperture (7)
- 23 Don't be acid about lil A. K. A. 'Salt of the earth' (6)
- 24 Is there a symbol in motto Kenneth used (5)
- 25 Be in with a weekday force (5)
- 26 Contempt for southern grain (5)
- 29 Fight with a fifteen on board (4)

Answers on inside back cover

Cambridge Cabinet Makers

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Okay, so why should I join the Cottenham and Rampton branch of the Royal British Legion?

It is around now that you will see us, participating in Remembrance-tide. It is that time of the year when, we hope, you are one of the 30 million or so who purchase a poppy and perhaps, more locally, attend the short Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. You may even know the person from whom you buy your poppy. You will find we are no different from you but what we share is a pride in being known as "Members of The Royal British Legion". The Legion was formed in 1921. So, 80 years on, where is the Legion of today?

Well, the need for the Legion is greater today than ever before. Some 15 million people in the UK are eligible for the Legion's help and the number of ex-Service men and women who need the Legion's support is increasing on an almost daily basis. World War Two veterans are growing older and require more support, whilst those who served in later conflicts including Northern Ireland, the Falklands and the Gulf are also turning to the Legion for help. Recent events in America and the intended "war on terrorism" have focussed this country's attention upon our Service personnel once again, some of whom may need the Legion's support and assistance in the future.

So, what have the above events got to do with Cottenham and Rampton Branch and those of us who are members of The Royal British Legion? Well, the Legion is about people

and families of all ages, it's about caring for others and being part of something very special. This is why you will find us selling poppies and carrying out other work; we are raising the much-needed funds the Legion requires to do its work – and there is never enough to do all that is required.

Have YOU ever thought about joining the Legion? Are you an ex-Serviceman who would welcome the opportunity to meet other ex-Servicemen and share in the camaraderie? Then apply to join as an Ordinary Member. Or are you someone who has not seen service but who wants to help the Legion undertake its work? Then join us as an Associate Member. The benefits of Legion membership are significant and rewarding!

If you are interested in the work of the Legion and would like to hear more about the Cottenham and Rampton Branch, please contact Mr Gerry Young on 01954 250172 or better still come to a Special General meeting that will be taking place at the Branch premises, 121 High St, Cottenham at 7:30pm on 28 November 2001. We are always looking for new Members to swell our ranks and look forward to hearing from YOU.

Short Stories & Poetry

Readers are invited to send in either original poetry or short stories for inclusion in *The Newsletter*. Short stories should be no longer than 600 words. The objective should be to entertain the general readership — go on, have a go!

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Perhaps you can provide temporary overnight care for a child in an emergency, or maybe for a number of weeks or months. Other children need permanent foster care or are seeking adoption. Alternatively, can you provide just a few hours a week to offer respite care to families in need of a break, or guidance and direction to an adolescent with behavioural difficulties?

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If you want to make a real difference and feel you are up to the challenge of becoming a carer, or if you just want to know more, call freephone 0800 0520078 for an informal chat or visit our website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Christmas Carol Concert

TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER

ON THE GREEN

6:30PM

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"I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THAT.."

Anyone interested in forming/joining a FEN EDGE CINEMA CLUB?

The idea would be to screen rather unusual films – classics, foreign or cult films, or basically any film that's not likely to be shown on TV or at local cinemas. No triple X's! After the screening, we could discuss the film informally over coffee. The first meeting will be on Monday 3rd December at 7:30pm. Venue: Cottenham Village College. From a mixture of my own ideas and suggestions I've received, I've concocted the following:

Fen Edge Cinema Club Programme

December 2001 **The Third Man**, Carol Reed 1949 GB
Classic British film noir starring Orson Welles with evocative zither score.

January 2002 **Jackie Brown**, Quentin Tarantino 1997 US
Much less violent than the films which made Tarantino's reputation.

February 2002 **Jour de Fete**, Jacques Tati 1948 France
Not Tati's best-known film but arguably his funniest. Little dialogue but subtitled.

March 2002 **Kind Hearts and Coronets**, Robert Hamer 1949 GB
Classic British black comedy starring Dennis Price and Alec Guinness as all the numerous members of a family.

April 2002 **Once upon a Time in the West**, Sergio Leone 1968 Italy
Starring Henry Fonda and Claudia Cardinale. Arguably Morricone's greatest score.

May 2002 **Ivan the Terrible parts I and II**, Sergei Eisenstein 1944/1946 Russia
Eisenstein's last work. To be shown on two evenings.

June 2002 **Memento**, Christopher Nolan 2001 GB
Film Noir which has been well received. Explores relationship between truth and memory. Starring Guy Pearce.

July 2002 **All Quiet on the Western Front**, Lewis Milestone 1930 US.

August 2002 **Bicycle Thieves**, Vittorio De Sica 1948 Italy
Classic post-war Italian cinema. Subtitled.

September 2002 **Milou en Mai**, Louis Malle 1989 France/Italy
Comedy. Subtitled.

October 2002 **Great Expectations**, David Lean 1946 GB
Has been described as Lean's greatest film.

November 2002 **Fitzcarraldo**, Werner Herzog 1982 Germany
Caruso-lover in Amazonia. The making of this film was as exotic as the film itself. With Klaus Kinski. Subtitled.

Interested? We meet at 7:30pm on the first Monday of the month at CVC. Details from Steve Howie, tel: 01954 250823 or smh@howies.fsnet.co.uk

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LETTERS to the Editors

Public clock restoration fund appeal

Dear editorial team,

Our congregation would like to thank you very much for the Newsletter's generous donation and for giving our appeal publicity by printing our recent article. Your valued contribution will help us to provide a reliable and, we hope, an attractive new clock.

We hope you will find the gilded numerals, re-painted face and more traditional style hands a more pleasing feature – and that the time keeping will, at last, reach the standard which Cottenham deserves.

We are now very closely approaching our appeal target and after some delays we expect the clock to be installed within the next two weeks.

May we add our very best wishes for the continued success of the *Newsletter* and thanks to you all for all your efforts.

David Warford (Clock Fundraiser) 20 Sept 2001

The clock is now installed and very nice it looks too! So nice, in fact, that it is already attracting admiring verses like this anonymous contribution:

We're glad that the Methodist clock
Is once more going tick-tock
Now we can see the time of day
As we pass along our way.

Merry
Christmas

Deadline

FOR NEXT ISSUE
25th DECEMBER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed by Cottenham Court residential and nursing home to push wheelchair-bound residents on trips out.

If you are interested please contact Arlene Barnard on 01954 252626

Down
1 Necktie, 2 Wondering, 4 Vent, 5 Newage,
6 Ungulate, 7 Leaty, 8 Yield, 9 Sever, 13 Sandy,
15 Gaffs, 17 Scion, 18 Mendicant, 22 Prevent,
23 Alkali, 24 Token, 25 Among, 26 Scorn, 29 Spar

Across
1 News, 3 Eventually, 10 Condemn, 11 Teacupful,
12 Themes, 14 Range, 16 Emir, 17 Stamen
19 Edifice, 20 Giggly, 21 Snap, 23 Ascot, 27 Novice,
28 Muckrakes, 30 Preface, 31 Gondoliers, 32 Stet

– Crossword answers

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

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	Central Control.....	01480 456111
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	Dr. M. Grande, 42 Telegraph Street.....	251180
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	Tim Wotherspoon, 135 High Street. e-mail: timwothers@aol.com.....	252108
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