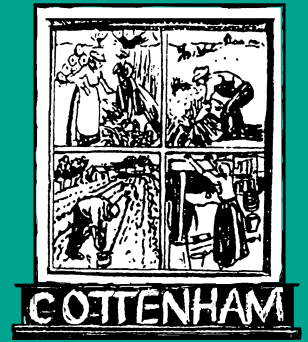


COTTENHAM NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NUMBER 83

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2004

WHAT'S NEXT?

By now every household in the village will have received a copy of the Cottenham Parish Plan. There was a lot of interesting material in the document and exciting proposals for action. I certainly learned a thing or two from reading it; not least that 25% of those who responded who are employed actually work in the village. That is an amazing fact for a village so near a major employment centre like Cambridge. No dormitory village we!

Having had a chance to digest the plan document, it's time to begin the process of implementing the proposals. With this in mind, the Parish Plan Committee will be holding an open meeting to help to identify immediate projects and to develop a medium-term and longer-term strategy for implementing the plan.

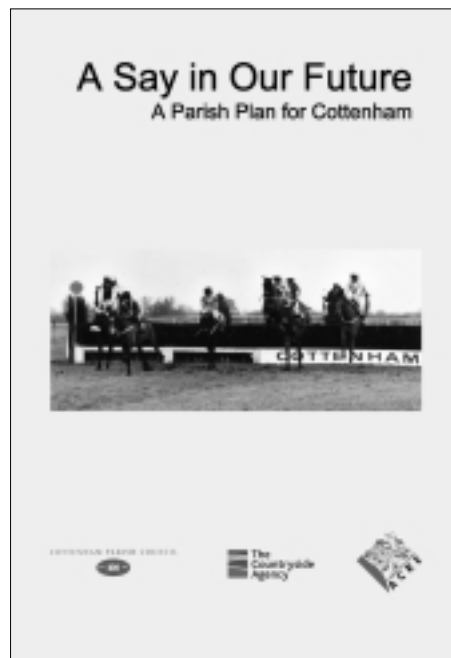
The Parish Council will be involved in most of the projects to varying degrees.

However, in itself, the council has neither the skills nor the resources required to implement such a wide-ranging plan.

Therefore, the Parish Council needs the support of the people of the village who can offer their skills to help deliver improvement for us all.

This means YOU! Can you manage projects, raise funds, build, dig, administer, coordinate, communicate, lobby, cajole, paint, or make tea? Everyone has skills which will be useful to the whole community. Please come along to the meeting and get involved.

The meeting will be on 19th October at 7:30pm in the lecture theatre at the Village College and it is vital that there is a good turnout. If you are unable to attend but would like to be active in the implementation of the plan then please contact our Parish Clerk, Julie Groves on 01954 202928 or by email on julie.groves@ntlworld.com



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MON-SAT 8.30AM - 5.30PM

SUN 9.00AM - 4.00PM

THURS LATE OPENING 7.30PM

VILLAGE DIARY

October

- 2nd Salvation Army, Jumble Sale, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am – 11:30am
4th Fen Edge Cinema Club, On The Waterfront, Village College, 7:30pm
8th Village Society, Wicken Fen – a talk by Kevin James, Primary School, 7:45pm
8th Julia Ball summer paintings – Opening concert and art exhibition, 126 High Street (by appointment), 8:00pm
9th Julia Ball summer paintings art exhibition, 126 High Street (by appointment), 10:00am – 6:00pm
10th Julia Ball summer paintings art exhibition, 126 High Street (by appointment), 10:00am – 6:00pm
12th Parish Council, Regular Meeting, Village College, 7:30pm
13th WI, Bell Ringers Entertain, Village College, 7:30pm
14th Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
14th Parish Council, Planning application meeting, Parish Council Office – Watson's Yard, 7:15pm
15th Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, Conservation of raptors – a talk by the Raptor Foundation of St. Ives, Village College, 7:45pm
16th WI, Coffee and Lunches. Salvation Army Barn, 11:30am
16th Cottenham Feast, All Saints' Church, 2:15pm
16th Cottenham Brass, Concert and tribute to Peter Sanderson, Village College, 7:30pm
22nd Gardeners Club, Winter Flowering Shrubs – Peter Jackson, Village College 7:45pm
23rd Cottenham Environmental Audit Group, Exhibition of commissioned photographs by Richard Heeps, All Saints' Church Hall, 10:00am – 6:30pm
24th Cottenham Environmental Audit Group, Exhibition of commissioned photographs by Richard Heeps, All Saints' Church Hall, noon – 6:30pm
28th Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
28th Parish Council, Planning application meeting, Parish Council Office – Watson's Yard, 7:15pm
29th Fen Edge Community Association, Art Exhibition, Village College, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
30th Fen Edge Community Association, Art Exhibition, Village College, 11:00am – 5:00pm
31st Fen Edge Community Association, Art Exhibition, Village College, 11:00am – 4:00pm

November

- 1st Fen Edge Cinema Club, Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid, Village College, 7:30pm
6th Salvation Army, Jumble Sale, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am – 11:30am
10th WI, Members' Night, Village College, 7:30pm
11th Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
11th Parish Council, Planning application meeting, Parish Council Office – Watson's Yard, 7:15pm
12th Village Society, Digging Dinosaurs in the Cambridgeshire Fens – a talk by Bernard O'Connor, Primary School, 7:45pm
16th Parish Council, Regular Meeting, Village College, 7:30pm
19th Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, Wildlife of Poland – a talk by Stuart Elsom, Village College, 7:45pm
20th Salvation Army, Christmas Fayre, Salvation Army Hall and Barn, Morning
25th Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
25th Parish Council, Planning application meeting, Parish Council Office – Watson's Yard, 7:15pm
26th Gardeners Club, Christmas Decorations – Mrs Alison White, Village College 7:45pm

SMALL ADS

2 VILLAS FOR RENTAL Southern Spain (Mazarron), both sleeping 4/6. Fully furnished, 10 minutes from the beaches and from the 'Puerto'. Both on a golf complex with communal pool, restaurants, etc. Low cost airlines to Alicante or Murcia. £200 to £350 pw. www.sunandsnowinspain.com or call Linda on 01487 740973 evenings.

.....
LARGE 2 BED APARTMENT near Sierra Nevada ski resort (Spain) located in Monachil, 35 minutes round the mountain to the ski lift at Pradollano, and just 5 miles from the major city of Granada where you can enjoy the hustle and bustle and more restaurants and tapas than you can imagine. Fully furnished, sleeps 5/7. Low cost airlines to Malaga, book early to get the best prices! www.sunandsnowinspain.com or call Linda on 01487 740973 evenings.

TO RENT – South Portugal, luxury 2 bedroomed apartment near Faro Airport. Daily maid service, balcony overlooking beach with toddler and full sized swimming pool, sky TV, both bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. £250 per week. Available early October 2004. *Please contact 01954 200309 or email loveluck@ntlworld.com for further information.*

.....
COSTA DEL SOL 5 – 12 Jan 2005 Villacana Club Gold Crown Resort near Puerto Banus, self-catering apartment, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, Sleeps 6 Fully Fitted, Restaurant, Heated Pools, Supermarket, Entertainment on site, On Beach. Rent £280.00. Buy £1200.00. Call Roger Gautrey 01954 250358.

.....
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 editor.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Cottenham Newsletter'.

RECYCLING NEWS

Rotten fruit and old tea bags have never felt so loved and wanted. South Cambridgeshire residents can now recycle these and other kitchen waste by putting them into their green wheeled bins.

With immediate effect residents can put all forms of compostable kitchen waste into their green wheeled bins to help them to slim the waste-lines of their black bins even more!

The changes have been made thanks to local contractor Donarbon, which processes the green waste on our behalf. They have been granted a DEFRA licence allowing them to compost kitchen food waste. They are believed to be the first site in the country to receive this licence.

Residents can now recycle:

- Cooked food
- Fruit and vegetable peelings
- Old fruit and vegetables
- Eggshells, stale bread
- Tea bags and coffee filters
- Meat, fish, bones and food carcasses

This is as well as the usual grass cuttings, leaves, prunings and clippings; untreated wood and bark; cardboard; catalogues, shredded paper and yellow pages; brown paper; rabbit and guinea pig waste and windfall fruit.

This kitchen food waste can also be placed in the green bin one week and the black bin the following week thus effectively having a weekly collection of food waste. This may be helpful to residents who already home compost because, as well as cardboard and woodier items of garden waste,

cooked food and chicken carcasses that are not home compostable can be placed in the green bin.

Plastic bottles can be recycled by putting them in any of 20 banks located around the district.

There are many different types of plastic used in packaging and some are not yet recyclable. But at present South Cambs residents can recycle three types of plastic bottle – 1, 2 and 3.

These include water, squash, fizzy drinks, cleaning products and toiletry bottles.

PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) – fizzy drink bottles

HDPE (High-density polyethylene) – bottles for milk and washing-up liquids

PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) – bottles for squash, mineral water and shampoo

These codes can be found on the bottom of most bottles. Plastics bottles with codes 4, 5, 6, and 7 cannot be recycled using the banks, these should be put into the black wheeled bin.

The banks for plastic recycling can be found in the following locations:

Bar Hill – Tesco Car Park

Bassingbourn – County Primary School, Brook Road

Cambourne – Morrisons Car Park, High Street

Comberton – Recreation Centre, Hines Lane

Fowlmere – Village Hall

Fulbourn – Tesco Car Park, Yarrow Road

Girton – Recreation Ground

Harston – Village Hall

Linton – Health Centre Car Park, Coles Lane

Milton – Tesco Car Park

Orwell – Village Hall, A603

Sawston – Car Park, High Street

Swavesey – St Andrews Church

Willingham – Co-op Car Park

Gamlingay – Community Centre, Stocks Lane

Melbourn – Car Park, High Street

The bottles are taken to Thetford where they are crushed and bailed. They are then shipped to various processors to be made into a wide range of products ranging from bin liners and carrier bags to garden furniture and fleeces.

South Cambridgeshire District Council Press Releases

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BUYING ABROAD

Most of us like to do some shopping while on holiday. What can you do if your 'bargain' falls to bits once you get home? We asked a Trading Standards Officer who visits Cambridge and Ely Citizens Advice Bureaux every month to explain!

If the value of the goods is OVER £100, paid for on a credit card such as Visa or Mastercard, representations should be made to the Credit Card Provider. As it stands, Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 (and this should be quoted in a letter to them) says that the credit card provider should reimburse you for major defects, or the cost of the repair if a minor defect. A "friendly" court case is to determine whether this extends to purchase abroad as well as in this country so the position may change in time.

The Office of Fair Trading believes it does, while some major credit card providers do not. There is an agreement that until the court's determination they should pay up. Consumers told that it doesn't cover overseas purchases should seek clarification from Trading Standards – 0845 3030666 (ask to speak to a duty officer).

There is no protection for goods under £100 or where payment is by debit rather than credit card.

The country of purchase will have its own legal system but the inconvenience and cost means that this is only a realistic option if a lot of money is at stake.

You may get a guarantee that only applies to the country of purchase. So, even if you buy defective goods abroad from a company which has a presence in the UK, you may not be

able to invoke that guarantee in the UK. A guarantee is in addition to rights given in conjunction with the Consumer Credit Act, Section 75, mentioned above.

Citizens Advice Bureaux have launched a new web site to help shoppers who have problems with goods or services they bought in another EU country. The web site was launched at the Trading Standards Institute Conference by Consumer Minister Gerry Sutcliffe. The site is in response to a rise in the number of shoppers seeking help from Citizens Advice after buying good or services from another EU country. It is available in English, German, Spanish, French and Italian and contains top tips on buying goods from abroad, fact sheets on common problems and a form to register a complaint. The site can be found at:
<http://www.euroconsumer.org.uk/>

Material provided by Cambridge Citizens Advice Bureau

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FEAST AND FEAST

Sounds like a good weekend, doesn't it? We WI members are at it again and we will be active participants in the feast weekend of October 16 and 17!

On October 16 we will be serving morning coffee and lunches at the Salvation Army Barn. Those of you who come regularly to enjoy our lunches know they will have a delicious meal. If you haven't visited us at this event before, make 2004 your year to treat yourself, or perhaps your whole family. The WI has a good reputation for cooking and we are lucky in that our WI cook is a retired, much sought after, caterer. We do give her some help but she is a stickler for getting things right. Apart from being nutritious, the meals are moderately priced too. Coffee from 11:00am, Lunch from 12:00 noon (£4.75 for adults, £2.50 for children).

No food will be supplied on October 17, the day of the Feast Parade, although in its heyday I gather spectators were welcomed into the homes of those on the route for tea and cake. I hope you are wondering what the WI will be up to this year. In contrast to the characters of the film 'Calendar Girls', last year we were accused of stepping out in our winter coats as we dressed as bunnies to illustrate 'Watership Down' during the Feast Day Parade. It was fun walking down the High Street persuading the onlookers to part with their loose change. Under our masks we felt unrecognisable so it was a little disturbing when someone in the crowd said 'Hallo Brenda'. However they put some money into my carrot money collector so all was well.

This year's theme is Past times or Pastimes. I wonder what we will be up to. Remember to come and see. I think we will be quite spectacular.

If you wish to join our lively group just come to any of our meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month at the Village College).

Brenda Ward

HALF TERM CRAZINESS

Cottenham Crazy Crotchets is a group of young people making music together. We are open to students in years 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10.

We will be holding a samba workshop at Cottenham Village College on 25th, 26th and 27th October 2004 from 9:30am to 2:30pm. The workshop will culminate in a small concert on the Wednesday evening.

The price will be £25 for the first child from each family with a 10% discount for subsequent siblings. The Musical Director will be Vanessa Brown who will be assisted by a number of other local music teachers.

So that the group can play together, everyone should be Grade 1 standard or above.

Most of all we want everybody to enjoy themselves and to have fun!

For more details please e-mail:
cottenham.crazy.crotchets@ntlworld.com



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ART INVITATION!

Sue Kafka-Ellis was fortunate as a student to live in a flat which later became part of the Kettle's Yard museum. Having Jim Ede as neighbour and friend has been a strong influence and explains her wish to live and exhibit in one space and perhaps her choice of colours.

Sue also has strong links with Germany where she worked for 28 years as a Rudolf Steiner teacher (in Art and English, for all age groups) and where her four children and four grandchildren and many friends and former pupils live.

She has been an enthusiastic teacher and artist all her life and she wants to share these skills and the viewing space which so many people have helped her make. Therefore, she plans to have one or two informal, private shows a year of other people's work. These will always be accompanied by music, another of Sue's passions, at weekends, by invitation or appointment.

Planned events include an exhibition of Julia Ball summer paintings on October 8, 9 and 10 and an exhibition of Christmas things on December 10, 11 and 12. These will take place at Sue's house at 126 High Street, Cottenham. Viewing is by invitation or appointment. If you are interested please contact Sue on 01954 201901 or email her at kafkaellis@aol.com.

WILDLIFE TRUST

The Cottenham Area Group of the Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust is looking for volunteers to help with work parties at Dog House Grove, Wilburton. The work is no harder than ordinary gardening and lasts for only the morning. Please contact Peter Pilbeam (01954 251544) for further information.

We meet at 10:00am at the reserve entrance about 100m down the green lane on the left halfway up the hill entering Wilburton from Cottenham on the B1049. The dates for the work parties are 17 October, 21 November and 19 December.

The wildlife trust also runs occasional talks at the Village College. On October 15 we will have a talk about conservation of raptors by the Raptor Foundation of St. Ives. On November 19, Stuart Elsom, who leads holidays for Sunbird Tours, will talk about the wildlife of Poland. Both of these talks will be at 7:45pm.

We welcome everyone to our meetings. There will be a small entrance fee (of £1 per person) to help cover the cost of refreshments and hire of the room.

Glynis Pilbeam



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PARISH COUNCIL

The August Council Meeting included the following matters:

- **RoSPA** – The Annual Report has been received, and work is being planned to carry out RoSPA's requirements regarding the older play equipment on the recreation ground.
- **Skateboard Project** – The construction of the skateboard park on the recreation ground has been delayed as the project committee are awaiting confirmation of financial support from possible funders. We are pleased to say that South Cambs District Council have granted an amount of £10,000 towards the project, for which the project committee, and the parish council are very grateful.
- **Smithy Fen Appeals** – The parish council were well represented at the recent public inquiry, but we were not asked to present our evidence. This will be offered in November when the rest of the evidence is heard.
- **Recreation Ground Users' Committee** – It has been agreed that two parish councillors will join the committee with the prime purpose of considering the future needs of all users.
- **Co-op Corner** – A group of residents and councillors met personnel from the Highways Authority to discuss the issue of parking in this area. Residents adjacent to the area are regularly affected by parked vehicles blocking their driveways; therefore please use the car park provided at the rear of the Co-op store rather than blocking driveways, and causing an inconvenience for the local residents, as well as creating a safety hazard for pedestrians. The Highways Authority is considering what improvements can be made.

JULY ARTS

Sculptures and paintings featured in Fen Edge for a number of weekends in July as part of the Cambridge Open Studios 2004 event. To mention some of these, Mick Doe's misty, moody photographs and Helen Humphreys's exciting pottery were beautifully displayed in Waterbeach.

In Cottenham, Rosalind Hore turned the Rectory garden into something of a sculpture park and art gallery. Sue Kafka-Ellis held a musical evening, with about 50 people being entertained by poetry and music performed by the young and not so young. A lovely violin solo and duet followed by an accompanied song opened the evening's entertainment. Frances Horgan's voice enthralled us. The Unwin family introduced us to 'I dreamed a dream' from 'Les Miserables', and Linda Unwin promised, with 'Sunset Boulevard', to break our heart with one look – actually it was probably achieved with her rendition of 'Moon River' and with husband John's 'Willow Tit Willow'.

Jasper Kay invited us to reflect on memories of Cottenham and wonder 'Where are they now?', and then amused us with 'Riding through Cambridge on my bike' (Jasper, surely this should be available on CD!), before tearing at our emotions with 'Come live with me and be my love'.

It was a lovely evening to introduce us to a super set of four weekends of art.

Thanks to all the artists.

Mike Smith



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BIRD REPORT

Bird BAPs – no, you won't find them at Barker's the Bakers, they are Biodiversity Action Plans, aimed at conserving birds in the UK, nationally and locally. The Convention on Biological Diversity, signed by 159 governments at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, called for national plans to save biodiversity. In 1994, the UK government responded by launching Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan for species and habitats thought to be under threat. Since then 436 national BAPs have been produced, including 391 species action plans (SAPs) and 45 habitat action plans (HAPs). These plans have been used by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, set up in 1997, to produce 45 habitat and species plans for our county. The habitat plans focus on five habitat groups: Wetland, Woodland, Grassland, Farmland and Urban. There are species plans for threatened birds, mammals, invertebrates and plants.

What does this have to do with Cottenham? Five bird species have their own plans: grey partridge, bittern, stone curlew, skylark and song thrush. Even at my most optimistic I don't expect that bittern or stone curlew will breed in Cottenham but the other three certainly breed in our parish. The grey partridge, for example, breeds in fields around Long Drove – two males were seen displaying there earlier this year. Grey partridges use field margins and hedges for shelter and to find food for their chicks, so their plan includes protection of suitable hedges on farmland. Overall, the plan aims to increase the county-wide population of grey partridges to

10,000 pairs by 2010. The skylark plan is also aimed at increasing the numbers of breeding birds on farmland. Perhaps song thrush is the most familiar of the three BAP species found in Cottenham and its decline most obvious to readers of the *Newsletter*. The plan particularly aims to safeguard the song thrush in parks and gardens where it is still relatively common.

You can read more about BAPs on the website at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/sub/cntryside/biodiv/plans/index.html>. The library gives free access to the Internet, if you don't have a computer linked to the Internet at home.

Biodiversity actions plans are mostly aimed at combating the 'big problems' (habitat destruction, pollution etc.) but garden birds face smaller hazards, as well. Over the last few days I have been reminded of this: a young sparrowhawk startled me as it collided with the dining room window as I was tapping away at my laptop computer. The sparrowhawk was probably even more surprised than I was, but flew off as quickly as it had come. The juvenile song thrush that crashed into the kitchen window was not so lucky. Over the years our 'window casualties' have included starling, blackbird, blackcap, greenfinch and bullfinch. Wood pigeons often crash into the windows but are robust enough to survive, leaving a faint, powdery image on the window. I have a feeling that double-glazed windows are a greater problem for birds – the strong reflections give the impression that the garden extends through the window.

Vicki Harley

Kevin Ashworth



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LOCAL LANDSCAPES

Landscapes Around Cottenham is a new series of photographs by Richard Heeps, created as part of the Cottenham Environment Audit. Taken throughout one year, the series is both artwork and document, revealing the special, and often understated or underrated delights of our local countryside. The photographs will be presented for the first time in an exhibition in All Saints Church Hall on the weekend of October 23 and 24.

Richard was commissioned by the Cottenham Environment Audit Group to record a personal view of the countryside within the parish boundary – showing its different uses and activities, and capturing its looks and moods through the seasons. From his first shoot on the day after the big snowfall in January 2003, he has come up with over 30 photographs in which familiar and characteristic features of our local environment – orchards and hedgerows, waterways, farming, allotments, footpaths, the racecourse – are transformed into stunning and evocative images.

The exhibition will be a unique occasion, combining the opportunity to view the complete series of photographs, meet Richard Heeps and perhaps choose a print to buy. There will also be postcard packs for sale. Whether your interest is art, photography, the countryside, or you just live here, this exhibition is for you.

The photography commission is an important part of the wider project initiated by the Environment Audit Group with the aim of raising awareness and appreciation of the countryside of Cottenham parish, and encouraging future efforts to enhance it. Many people have helped with the Boundaries/Hedgerow Survey, the results of which are being analysed now.

The Environment Audit's own website www.cvdg.org/ceag will be launched in November. The website will draw together all the different strands of the project, with lots of interesting information, maps and images, including gallery pages of Landscapes Around Cottenham, and artwork from pupils of Cottenham Village College.

The Audit Group is a collaboration between Cottenham Village Design, Footpath and Wildlife Groups. Thanks to our funders for making the whole project possible – primarily to

the Heritage Lottery Fund's Local Heritage Initiative, and also to Fen Edge Community Association – and in particular its Arts Development Committee.

Enquiries to 01954 250106 or 01954 250421

About Richard Heeps and his approach to Landscapes Around Cottenham

In his commission brief Richard Heeps was asked to reflect the spirit of the Environment Audit aims in his photographs. Beyond this he was given freedom to adopt his own personal approach. He says of this commission:

'We all look at things in different ways. Working as a photographer for over 20 years, I have developed my own particular way of looking at things – an angle of view, a way of combining the elements of light, colour and structure, or isolating significant things from their surroundings. I have used different approaches and camera techniques, while at the same time a series of photographs like this must hang together, retaining an overall consistency.

A lot of the best images were made with snow lying on the ground. I think these images work not from a picturesque idea of the landscape covered by snow, but rather because the snow highlights and reveals the structure of the landscape – such as a dark hedge etched against a white field.

My eye is drawn to those elements of the landscape which show evidence of people's presence. These photographs primarily reflect the human activities in the countryside, as a place of work, sport and leisure. The people themselves are absent, giving the images a particular sense of distance or timelessness.'

Richard Heeps was brought up in Impington, in a house looking across the fields towards Cottenham. Based in Cambridge, his reputation is firmly established as a leading photographer in the area and the region, and with work featured in national and international publications. Cambridgeshire and Fen landscapes have been a recurring theme – including a millennium project '36 Minutes in Cambridgeshire', and a study of Wicken Fen for the National Trust.

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LANDSCAPES AROUND COTTENHAM

Commissioned photographs by RICHARD HEEPS

Exhibition, All Saints Church Hall, Cottenham

23 October 10:00 – 6:30

24 October 12:00 – 6:30

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Photographic prints and postcards for sale

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

August is apparently a traditional time for rather subdued activity within the walls of South Cambs District Council. I think this year would have proven to be the exception had we not had the adjournment of all three of the high profile Travellers Planning Appeal Hearings into the Smithy Fen, Moor Drove (Histon), and Cow Lane (Rampton) sites, which have all now been deferred until the autumn.

However, things are still moving on apace with regard to Northstowe – the 8,000–10,000 – home new town currently being planned for the Oakington / Longstanton area. Here we have seen some quite significant developments recently. At the last full council meeting a motion was put forward to effectively open up the debate into where this town should be located, so that the public may have a meaningful say as to where the eventual footprint should be. The motion was successful, and so later on this year a public consultation document will be published. You will then be able to comment on the merits of the three main options being put forward. The significant difference though is that we are now considering the possibility of the new town spanning the old St. Ives to Cambridge railway line, rather than being confined in a small area between the railway line, Oakington and Longstanton. This could be quite an advantage for the residents of Oakington and Longstanton as it could mean significantly more separation between these villages and the new town.

As we are faced with separation of only around 200 metres at present, then this is a welcome development. The impact for Cottenham is minimal as the new town footprint will be no closer than it would have been in the other options.

Rampton too will have little additional burden, as the town would then be located around 150–200 metres or so closer to this village (i.e. 900 metres instead of just under 1100). To give the villages added protection, the areas surrounding the new town will all be designated 'Green Belt' status, thus preventing the town from spreading towards the villages at a later date.

The other significant development is that we are now also considering a new road access into the town from somewhere along the Oakington Road, in the vicinity of Westwick. Again this will give excellent access to and from the facilities of the new town for the people of Cottenham, and has the added benefit of providing a potential by-pass for Oakington, thus making access to the A14 easier. New traffic calming measures are to be installed through Oakington shortly so an alternative 'hump free' route from Cottenham to the A14 would no doubt be welcome.

However, no decisions on any of these issues has yet been made, so it is very important that when the opportunity comes for you to have your say, during the public consultation exercise, that you do let the District Council know your thoughts and preferences. All the options will be there; just let us know what you think of them. I truly believe that the Public Consultation exercise is a vital component of the decision-making process, and the Council must take account of what the public really want from these developments in order to plan the thing properly. So please do take the opportunity to respond to the consultation process which should start later on in the autumn.

Simon Edwards (on behalf of the three District Councillors for Cottenham and Oakington)

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Reflections... – by Moyra A. Borg

I would like to have a bath and I would like to have had a bath for ages. There is a reason why I can't have a bath though. It's not a person, but there is a 'being' in there which has eight legs with whom I do not wish to share the bath! I don't know which of us is more frightened of the other. I went into the bathroom last night singing 'The Lass of Richmond Hill' and it freaked out running round and round in demented circles. It is about 2" long and I am 5'5" long. It weighs less than an ounce and I weigh... oh no, I'm not telling you, but considerably more than that. My options are now: be brave and pick it up somehow and put it in the field at the back of my house, or be very pathetic and go and find someone who will do the deed for me! My only other option is to have a strip wash! So ambles on my life. Indecisiveness and lots of old bumbling! I shall never be 'proactive'. I really do not like that word. We managed without it for generations and now all of a sudden everyone is supposed to be 'proactive'. It is a word used by people to describe how other people should be, or by people blowing their own trumpets about themselves.

The only things which should ever get 'sorted' are letters! Other things get 'sorted out'. I mustn't start going on about my pet hates, but the most irritating thing of all to me is when people speak with an inflection at the end of their sentences when they are making a statement, which makes it sound as though they are asking a question. I spent many a week aged eleven trying to learn about apostrophes and where they should be placed. I was nearly a lost cause to the teacher but she came from Edinburgh and did not believe in

lost causes! My English grammar still leaves a lot to be desired, but at least I do understand a bit about apostrophes if not semi colons and hyphens! I find it funny that in Cambridge, a world renowned centre of learning, that 'carrot's' (sic) cost so much per kilo and 'onion's' (sic) even more! Makes you sic!

(A friend called round and I begged him to remove the spider. He did it in one minute and thought nothing of it. I was very grateful!)

I very rarely drink alcohol. It makes me more loquacious than I already am. I try to drink orange squash with loads of soda water in it. It makes me angry though, that one is given sometimes just 180ml of Coca Cola in a tiny bottle for £1.50, whereas in another pub one can be given a can which is 330ml for £1. I don't mind price differences, but I do mind the huge variation in quantities of soft drink dispensed. If I were buying alcohol I feel as though the quantities I would receive would be regulated in some way. Sometimes what I am given instead of 'the real thing' (?) is really vile, watery stuff which has lost all its fizz. I am a bit of a Coca Cola connoisseur and make a fuss if it isn't right. When I ask for a half pint of Coca Cola, I ask for it in a half pint glass with no ice in it. I then ask them to pour that into a pint glass laden with ice, oh yes and a straw. That way I don't feel cheated out of a full measure of the Coca Cola I've paid for. I've been called all sorts of names over this, but I don't care, I'm too old to care!

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MERVYN HAIRD

Tributes have been paid to a Cottenham man who played a central role in preserving the history of the village. Mervyn Haird, who has died aged 84, built up a photographic historical record of around 3,400 images of Cottenham and held slide shows with his friend and fellow local historian Francis Garrett for the last 40 years, both locally and countrywide.

Born in Cottenham, on June 2, 1920, Mervyn was educated at Margett Street School and the County High School for Boys in Cambridge, before joining Pye Radio at the age of 16. He spent 43 years working with the company as an electronic engineer, retiring in December 1980.

Because his ancestors were parish clerks in Cottenham, he inherited parish records and developed a keen interest in the history of the village. His photographic collection and the shows started in 1962 after he acquired some negatives from the local photographer Fred Smith.

Francis said: "He did all the photography work and I would get the information for the commentary. In the beginning, we had as many as 400 people attending the shows." Together they helped to compile the book, Cottenham in Focus, which won the Cambridge Local History Society prize last year.

Mervyn's other passion was flowers. He was a member of Cambridge Geranium Society for 19 years and a keen breeder of the Angel Pelargonium. Over the last 10 years, he hybridized 12 varieties, all named with the prefix of Cottenham., which were at Chelsea. A new variety for 2005 will be named Cottenham Mervyn Haird as a lasting tribute to a man described as a "modest, retiring countryman".

He served on the parish council for 15 years and was a trustee of Cottenham United Charities for 20 years. He was a founder member of the Village Society, a trustee of the Cottenham British School Trust, treasurer of Cottenham Dissenters' Cemetery since 1976, and a member of the Cambridge Philatelic Society

A neighbour of many years said: "The legacy Mervyn leaves in the preservation of the history of Cottenham will keep his memory alive for many years to come. His wealth of knowledge in breeding such beautiful flowers will also give many people so much pleasure."

Mervyn Haird died peacefully at his home in Cottenham. on July 26. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Cynthia.

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ART EXHIBITION

Once again it is time to invite you all to come along to the, now well established, annual Fen Edge Community Association Art Exhibition to be held at Cottenham Village College in October.

Last year we were supported extremely well by both local artists and visitors and we are hoping that numbers will be even greater this year at this popular event. The exhibition gives local artists a chance to show their work and the sale of paintings yields a commission of 20% which when given to the Community Association allows grants to be given to support local clubs and groups in the villages within the Fen Edge Patch.

On behalf of the organising Committee I hope that many of our regular visitors will be joined this year by newcomers to the villages within the Fen Edge Patch – do come along it is well worth a visit.

On Friday October 29 there will be an Opening Evening for artists and their guests from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Tickets (£2 with wine) for the opening night are available from the Community Office at Cottenham Village College or will be available on the door.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 11:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday October 30 and 11:00am to 4:00pm on Sunday October 31. Door Admission £1. Refreshments included.

Christine Munns and the organising committee

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We are grateful. It is a lively village, we have never been made to feel as if we are interlopers and after seven years we like it so much that we would stay here even if our son decided to move.

But how much longer will it be lively here? It takes time and effort to feel that you belong in a village. I joined several societies and persevered with them. Few adults go out of their way to meet you. Why should they – they already have their friends. You just have to work at it. But I love the way that strangers will say, Good Morning, to you as you walk along the High Street.

My greatest pleasure was, and still is, the CVC swimming pool. I go to earlybirds and find a very friendly group of people who swim up and down, but also have time for a little gossip at the end of the pool. I thought I would like to play a part in the running of the pool. If other people were going to give up their time so that I could swim, I felt I must do my share.

Now, as you probably know, the regulations have changed and although there has never been an accident at the CVC pool, never mind an emergency, we now have to have paid, more highly-qualified lifeguards.

But here is the bad news. Unless we can get more funds we will not be able to open next year. Those of you with children will find that the summer holidays will be bleaker with no village pool for the children to use. Is that what you want? If every person in the village gave us £1 our worries would be over.

There is so much to do in Cottenham but by the time you have retired there will be nothing here unless you make the effort NOW. Nearly every club in the village is longing for a few younger, new people to join. You may come and decide that each club is only for the oldies, but they are all for the whole village. A group of enthusiastic, younger people would make all the difference.

It's so easy to relax in front of the telly, or carry on with the chores after work or when the children are in bed, but an evening out would not only be revitalising but you would meet other people and feel you belong here.

Nowadays, I can never hurry when I shop in the village because I always meet someone I know. It gives me such a warm feeling and makes me feel at home.

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CRICKET CLUB

With one 1st XI and one 3rd XI match to go at the time of writing, Cottenham Cricket Club can look back on a tough, but ultimately satisfactory, season. You may recall that, in 2003, their first ever season in Cambs Cricket Association (CCA) Senior League 1, the 1st XI sweated blood to avoid relegation. Apart from the satisfaction of that achievement, those heroic efforts were somewhat in vain as, for the 2004 season, the CCA decided to merge both Senior 1 and Senior 2 Leagues to form one huge Senior 1 League of 20 clubs. At the same time they created a new Senior 3 League. The plan was for each club in the revamped Senior 1 to play each other just once, with a view to dividing the League once again into Senior 1 and 2 for the 2005 season. The driving force for this whole process was the desire to accommodate three new higher-division clubs from outside the Senior League – St Ives, Ely/Haddenham and Weston Colville.

At the start, despite knowing that this new format would prove a really tough test, we had high and realistic hopes of retaining our Senior 1 status but difficulties soon arose. Skipper Steve Halkyard's knee surgery not only prevented him starting the season but also, ultimately, resulted in him missing the whole summer – a massive blow to the team. In addition, our three pace bowlers, Chris Tuck, Ben Lawrence and Rob Barker, for various reasons, were only rarely able to play together – another major setback. All of this, added to the generally below-par performance of our batting, resulted in the season being quite a difficult one and, at one stage, we were flirting with relegation to the new Senior 3 League. However, the character and commitment of the team came through when it mattered and we were able to secure our place in next season's Senior 2 League.

In our meteoric rise up the League structure, we had got used to winning but it is also very important to know how to bounce back from defeat and it is very encouraging to see that the players have knuckled down to life at this level and have not let losing a few games sap their morale. If we can get everybody fit and firing, we would hope to make a challenge for a return to Senior 1 in 2005. On another positive note, Chris Tuck was again selected for the CCA Representative XI to play against a County side in the Bill Cockell Memorial Trophy.

The 2nd XI have had a good season, winning eight of the fourteen matches played and finishing mid-table in Junior League 2 North. As well as the usual holiday and personal absences, skipper Alex Richards has had to contend with the needs of the 1st XI and so the side has inevitably varied from week to week. Unavoidable as this is, it does not make running the show any easier and Alex and the rest of the players have done an excellent job in keeping the team spirit and commitment at a high level all summer. The success of the side has been down to two things – the experience of players like Glen Griffiths and John White coupled with the encouraging contributions from young players such as Liam Brett, Andrew Cosgrove and Matthew Cundell who continue to develop well.

Having gained promotion last year, the 3rd XI have found things much harder this time around. New captain Daniel Parrott has had a difficult baptism and, at the time of writing, we are propping up the table, a position we have held all season. The picture, however, is not as bleak as it appears because we had to cancel two games this season due to a shortage of players, and had we played those and picked up a few bonus points, we would now be off the bottom. With one match to go, therefore, it is still possible for us to climb off the bottom. With both the 1st and 2nd XI

sides taking players this year, the thirds have never been able to put out their strongest team and, despite excellent individual performances, particularly from Graham Eke, Daniel Parrott, Adam Dunnett, Charlie Hiscock and Terry Brown, we have managed to lose games that could so easily have been won. Such is life in cricket and the dividing line between success and failure can be quite narrow. A number of younger players – Robert Benson, Liam Brett, Chris Brown, Jonathan Browne, Alex Cundell and Daniel McGinty – all made their debuts this season and performed particularly well. If these lads continue to progress, and we can field a settled side, then we are sure we will be pushing for promotion next season.

The club ran three teams at junior (youth) level this season. The under-15 and under-13 teams finished 4th in their leagues and both of these teams lost games by just a couple of runs. If these games had been won, both sides would have finished in the top placings.

The under 11 team had an excellent season and finished second to Histon, who won all their games. We nearly beat Histon at home and, indeed, should have won that game. Had we done so, it could have been us winning the League instead – it was that close. It was particularly pleasing as this is the same group of lads who lost every game last season and they have obviously made tremendous progress this year. If they continue to develop at this rate, we are sure they will be League winners in years to come. A number of players have been nominated to have trials for the District team which, if they are successful, will improve their game tremendously. Those nominated include Richard Hayward, Paul Scott, Ben Smith, Daniel Stopher, Carel van Rooyen, Jack Upton and Thijs Wolf. The club wishes all of them the very best of luck.

As always, we would like to thank all our major club sponsors, The Curry Palace, Nigel Bolitho and Gerry Bate, for their continued generosity – it would be so difficult to survive at this level without it; Neville Rice and Paul Laston for all their hard work on the squares (both new and old) in a wet summer (so different from 2003!); all our club officials, helpers (especially those providing teas) and supporters; and the Sports and Social Club and Cottenham Parish Council for their continued support. It is easy to forget that, just six seasons ago, the 1st XI were playing in Junior League 4 North!! The 2nd XI is now playing two Leagues higher than that. The club has come a long way in a short time but we still very much need the support and encouragement of all cricket-lovers in the village to ensure that Cottenham Cricket Club is able to sustain the progress we have made.

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BRASS BAND CONCERT

This year Cottenham Brass Band is celebrating thirty years of continued music making in and around Cottenham, helping to raise many thousands of pounds for local and national charities as well as giving pleasure to its playing members.

Starting with just a few juniors, the band gradually progressed, achieving some notable contest wins along the way for a band of twenty-five members and still growing.

To acknowledge this achievement the band is staging a grand concert in the Village College on Saturday 16th October at 7:30pm when we shall be joined by the Lancing and Sompting Royal British Legion Band. Tickets will be available at the door.

While acknowledging our own achievements we shall also be recognising the dedicated service given to our village by the recently retired Parish Council Clerk, Peter Sanderson, who along with Mrs Sanderson will be our guests of honour and a tribute will be given by Mac Dowdy.

In previous years our Feast Concerts have all been in aid of local charities, however, this year as some of our instruments are many years older than the band itself, we are asking you to give generously as all proceeds will go to purchasing new or refurbished instruments, so that the band is able to reinforce its existence in Cottenham for many years to come.

THREE MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

During the weekend of July 10-12, I completed the Three Mountain Challenge in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer, climbing Skiddaw, Scafell Pike and Helvellyn in the three days.

There were forty of us, all linked in some way with breast cancer, and a number were cancer sufferers. It was a wonderful weekend, challenging and enjoyable, and we were all inspired by the courage and cheerfulness of so many fellow walkers.

By the end of July I was able to send in over £4,000 in sponsorship money, four times my original target. For this I owe a huge thank-you to many people: Cottenham Village College, Clements Hardware, Barkers Bakery, Dentons Carpets, Biochrom Ltd, db Technology, Screens and Graphics, Cambridge Cabinet Makers, B&C Motors, Target Print Ltd, Cambridge Building Society, Abbey National and Access Control. But equally I was touched and delighted by the generous individual contributions by so many friends in the village and elsewhere.

So, a very big thank you to one and all. Having said that, if anyone missed this opportunity and would still like to contribute, then I would be very pleased to hear from them.

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CRIME REPORT

July seems to have been a relatively quiet month for reported criminal activity, which must be a good thing. However, I realise that that is not much consolation to the victims of the crimes listed here.

Remember, all crimes should be reported to the police because if they are not, they didn't happen. As usual, if you know of a crime that happened in July and was reported to the police and it is not listed here, please let me know (my contact details are on the back page).

Eddie Murphy

Date	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
1	Burglary of an outbuilding	Long Drive
2	Burglary of an outbuilding	High Street
3	Theft of pedal cycle	High Street
4	Criminal damage	Smithy Fen
7	Theft of pedal cycle	Lee Close
9	Burglary of an outbuilding	Rampton Road
10	Criminal damage to a vehicle	Rampton Road
16	Theft	High Street
24	Assault and battery	High Street
29	Assault	Coolidge Gardens
31	Criminal damage	High Street

ARTICLES, DATES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

E-mail, PC floppy disk and paper submissions are all welcome. Please contact the Editor if you have any questions. Dates of events to be advertised in the next issue (No. 83) should span the last week of September and the months of October and November.

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

Deadline

**FOR NEXT ISSUE
25th OCTOBER**

LETTERS to the Editors

Dear Editor,

I have been amazed, since my arrival in the village 15 months ago, by the amount of second-hand clothes and other goods, that are regularly given to The Salvation Army here in Cottenham.

I wish to express my personal thanks to the villagers for their help in this way. Some of the clothes and other goods are sold at our coffee mornings and jumble sales, which generate finances for the local Salvation Army.

In addition our Clothing Bank is emptied on a weekly basis by The Salvation Army's recycling centre, where it is sorted and used to help people in the poorer Third World countries.

From time to time we also receive electrical goods, unfortunately due to legislation governing the re-sale of second-hand electrical goods we are no longer able to accept any electrical goods.

*Major Ian Fawcett
Cottenham Salvation Army*

Dear Editor

I would like to appeal to your readers for information regarding an incident on the High Street. On the 29th of July, my red Ford Ka was parked outside the Chemist. At approximately 10:00am my car was hit by another vehicle and badly damaged. The other vehicle drove off leaving me forced to claim around £1000 on my insurance.

If the other driver is local or anybody knows anything about this, please would they contact me on 01954 203116.

Alison Kitching

ADVERTISING RATES

Current rates are:

Size A (1/8 page)- £17.50

Size B (1/4 page)- £30.00

(discount of 10% for six insertions prepaid)

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

Quotations are available on request.

**Contact Peter Robertson on
01954 200080**

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police	Community Beat Office.....	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 Toy Library	Karen Wigley	252339
Dentist	Mr. Faber, Old Telephone Exchange, 40 Margett Street.....	251696
Chemist	Co-operative Pharmacy Cottenham, 222 High Street.....	250556
Chiroprapist	J.R. Kain, 13 Pelham Close	251143
Osteopath	Roger Giddings & Associates. Physic (Oakington Therapy Centre) Oakington Road, Girton. email: reception@physic.co.uk	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	Cambridgeshire Direct – County & District Council Enquiries	08450 450500
Parish Council.....	Clerk – Julie Groves, 44 Victory Way. e-mail: julie.groves@ntlworld.com	202928
District Councillors.....	Jacky Dixon, e-mail: cllr.dixon@scams.gov.uk ...Home: 252083, Mobile: 07919 575190 Simon Edwards	Home: 01223 233682, Mobile: 07711 079089
	Tim Wotherspoon, e-mail: tim.wotherspoon@uk.uuemail.com	252108
County Councillor	Peter Stroude, e-mail: peter@stroude.fsbusiness.co.uk	01223 237984
British Red Cross	Cambridge Office	01223 354434
Citizens Advice	CAB, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge	08701 264010
Social Services	Histon Team	01223 718011
Mobile Warden Service		251182
NSPCC	Cottenham Area Team, Peterborough	01733 558245
RSPCA	Area Number, Peterborough	0870 5555999
Samaritans	Cambridge Centre.....	01223 364455
Railway Station	Cambridge, Passenger Enquiries	0845 7484950
Driving Instruction	TOPS Driving School	252239
Taxi	Pegasus Taxi	261324
Library	Margett Street.....	273322
Library Doorstep Service	Hilary Firth	01223 718358
Parish Church.....	The Rectory, 6 High Street	250454
Baptist Church.....	Jeff Boyden, 72 Lyles Road	250985
Catholic Church	Fr David Paul, St Lawrences Church, 91 Milton Road, Cambridge	01223 704640
Methodist Church	The Rev'd. Cynthia Hardiman, Wesley House, 250 High Street	250242
Salvation Army	Majors Ian and Barbara Fawcett, 15 Pelham Close	250524
Royal British Legion	Matthew Baldry, 123 Coolidge Gardens. e-mail:matthew.baldry@tesco.net	202797

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