

# THE MILLENIUM QUESTION

One hundred and ninety-two replies were received in response to the questionnaire recently circulated to residents of Cottenham. The Parish Council is not sure whether to assume total lack of interest by the other 1600-odd households in the village, or whether to presume complete confidence in its ability to make the right decision.

There were 57 different suggestions, with 20 people suggesting a permanent feature of some kind to mark the event. The other most popular proposals were:

- A celebration carried out by the churches (16)
- A two day event spanning New Year's Eve and New Year's Day (15)
- A Gala Day in summer - without band (15)
- A firework/laser display (12)
- A pageant of village history over the last 1000 years (12)

- Street parties for all (11)
- A display of coins, local memorabilia etc. (11)

A number of people suggested that something should be done to benefit young people or those more disadvantaged. Four people felt that public funds should not be used, that nothing should be done, that there is nothing to celebrate, or that money should be donated to Shelter or another appropriate charity.

The Parish Council is grateful to everyone who took the time to respond and all views will be taken into account. A group will meet to consider the responses and its recommendations will be considered by the full Council.

The Newsletter competition drew only three entries, two of which are listed in the suggestions above. We had hoped that our offer of a tenner would spur more people into enter-

ing, but sadly we were wrong. Never mind, the Editors have decided to award the £10 first and only prize to Janet Seymour, of 34 Lyles Road, Cottenham, who wrote:

"Most is to be gained from the next century by the younger members of the village. I would like to see a permanent facility provided for them, ideally, a hard playing area up on the Rec. that could be used for a variety of games such as basketball, skateboarding, etc. If too expensive, perhaps just providing the hard standing space and adding equipment as affordable. A Millenium Plaque could be laid on 1st January 2000".

We will keep you informed as to further discussions and decisions over the next few months.

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# VILLAGE DIARY

## MARCH

- 27 Bus Pass Refund session, Franklin Gardens, 4-6pm  
28 Toy Library Nearly New Sale at Baptist Church 9.30-11

## APRIL

- 4 Salvation Army Open Day, 10.00 am onwards  
4 Table top sale, Baptist Church, 10-12 noon  
8 "Through the Seasons" at Anglesey Abbey, W.I. 7.30  
10 "History of Cambridgeshire Transport", Mike Petty, Village Society, 7.45 Primary School  
19 Yesteryear Road Run, dep. Cottenham Green 09.30  
23 Annual Parish Meeting, CVC 8.00pm

## MAY

- 2 Fun Run and Market, Cottenham Village College  
13 Demonstration of Line Dancing, W.I. 7.30 pm Franklin Gardens  
20 "Appearance Matters", Marilyn Gunn demonstration, Library 7.30  
16 Wild West Gala Day, Milton Childrens Hospice, 11-4 pm  
15 Fen Reeve Woodland, unveiling of Boards, James Paice MP  
17 Family Relay Race Event, Giants Hill, Rampton 2.30

## JUNE

- 17 "Archaeology", Alison Taylor, Library 7.30pm

## JULY

- 11 Charity Gala Day "Cottenham Extravaganza"

## SMALL ADS

**HOUSE WANTED** in Cottenham. Smaller three-bedroomed house for long let, unfurnished. Good references. Tel 01954 250424

**FOR SALE**, four hives with bees (1 National, 3 x WBC), treated with Bayvarol September. M. Stokes, 01954 251892

**METHODIST JUNIOR CHURCH**, each Sunday 10.30-11.45, toddlers to teenagers, all welcome. Arts, crafts, games, discussion and drama, qualified teachers. Opposite Co-Op

### SMALL ADS

**5p per word, maximum 50 words, all proceeds to THE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE AT MILTON**



## DIARY NOTES

### Cottenham Library

is running monthly events for the Spring season.  
Tickets in advance from the Library.

### Toy Library -

Thursdays, 2.30 - 4.00 - April 2 and 16, May 7 and 21,  
June 4 and 18, July 2 and 16.

### SEVERAL ALERT RESIDENTS

**noticed the glaring error in our advance notice of refuse collections for Easter.**  
**As we go to press, we regret we are still unable to give you the correct information,**  
**as we have not yet received official notification for 1998.**  
*We are sorry if we confused you!*



## LADYBIRD PRE-SCHOOL COTTENHAM

(OFSTED Approved)

As a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance we provide  
high quality Child Care at competitive rates

### For Children aged 2-3 years:-

Little Ladybirds Monday 1pm - 3pm  
Little Ladybirds Tuesday 9.00am - 11.00am  
Little Ladybirds Thursday 9.00am - 11.00am

### For Children aged 3 years to School age:-

Monday 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Tuesday 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Wednesday 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Thursday 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Friday 12.30pm - 3.00pm

### Additional Pre-school sessions (for Children Starting School Sept. '98)

Monday 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Tuesday 12.30pm - 3.00pm  
Wednesday 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Thursday 12.30pm - 3.00pm

Mother and Toddler Group meets Friday mornings 9.00am - 11.30am

Supervisor: Rosemary Miller BA(Hons) Chairperson: Barbara Johnson

Registered Charity

**Tel: 01954 250891**

## EVER FANCIED A BUNJEE JUMP?

A 150ft. bungee jump will be present at the Charity Gala Group's Cottenham Extravaganza on Saturday 11th July at the Rec (Lambs Lane). The bungee jump will be open to any healthy person over the age of 18 and is one opportunity that shouldn't be missed!

The Ultimate 90's Experience can be yours by getting sponsored and making a free drop, or by paying on the day. This is just one of many

exciting events taking place at the Extravaganza.

All money raised on Saturday 11th July will be equally split and donated to MAGPAS, The Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust and Friends of Arthur Rank House, Mill Road, Cambridge. Anybody interested in a rare opportunity for Cottenham, please telephone the Charity Gala Group on 01954 202797

## THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL OPEN MEETING

will be held on Thursday 23rd April at 8.00 pm at Cottenham Village College. This annual meeting is open to all members of the public, when the Council will report on the work of the previous year and parishioners have the opportunity to ask questions,

The Parish Council is completely open and accountable to the people

it serves. Observers are welcome at all meetings, which are advertised on the Parish Notice Boards, but they are not able to comment during the meeting unless invited to do so. If time permits, however, observers are encouraged to ask questions and make comments at the end of the meeting.

## COTTENHAM METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

On Saturday March 21st, at 10.00 am, we are holding our Easter Fayre to which everyone is invited. There will be stalls and refreshments, and an auction will be taking place for some hot air balloon rides at Wimpole Hall, to be taken by arrangement at the winners' convenience. All money raised will be to provide a 'loop' system on our premises for those with partial hearing.

Easter services - Maundy Thursday, a service at 7.00pm, on Thursday 9th April to 'Dress the Cross'. This is a fellowship service, led entirely by members, adherents, friends and visitors, with coffee served afterwards. Easter Sunday - Communion at 10.45 am, with hot cross buns and coffee to follow.

The Methodist Church is opposite the Co-Op, in the High Street, and can be contacted on 01954 250242, 252647 or 251553. Happy Easter from us all.

Phil Seal

❖  
J.W. ROGERS  
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# GARDEN NOTEBOOK

I've been in the village for just over a year now but as I only planted my garden up in May of last year, this is really my first Cottenham Spring. The one thing I do remember from last year is the late frost that did for the blossom on the quince tree (*Cydonia oblonga*) and as I look out of the window now the buds look again as if they could be blasted before they have a chance to blossom. It's too big to try and protect with fleece or a sheet and at the age of 50 at least, I think it should know better than to fall for a few warm days but like all other living things, it clearly believes it to be mid March. Except for my Spring bulbs.

Given that gardens are my living, it is difficult to own up to the fact that I really am a fair weather gardener and find the Autumn too wistful to be thinking of doing anything much more than the obligatory tidy up or putting to bed of tender plants. I never manage to order bulbs from catalogues in time and last year resorted to a mad dash to the local garden centre in early November to pick up the leftovers of everyone else's organised purchasing.

I have a tiny garden which presents a few problems of scale and some difficult decisions. Not for me the great trumpets of daffodils scattered in natural clumps across the lawn - I had to get rid of that to make more room for plants. It had to be dwarf

narcissus and the smaller tulips (although I couldn't resist Queen of the Night, almost black and a triumph, I hope, in a group with the purple smoke bush (*Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple'), a fantastic wormwood (*Artemisia lactiflora* 'Guizhou') bought on impulse from Monksilver last summer with dark purple veining on its feathery leaves, a New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax purpureum*) and an elegant grass (*Deschampsia caespitosa* 'Bronzschleier') all underplanted with lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*) whose lime green flowers should liven things up a bit!).

I had planned to put all the bulbs around and through drifts of herbaceous planting so that when they had finished, their wilting leaves could be covered by the lush new growth of hostas, alchemilla, hardy geraniums etc. As it was, by the time I got round to actually planting them on that November weekend, it was dark. I had a friend staying who clearly thought I had lost my senses when I insisted that if we didn't get them in the ground that very minute, it would be too late. So we planted them, in the dark and the cold, unable to see what we were doing, how deep we were planting and whether they were anywhere near the plants I wanted to grow over them once they had bloomed. Since then I've hardly put my nose out of the door into my

own garden as the winter is just the right time to be working hard at planning other peoples' gardens.

I shouldn't be surprised that the bulbs have, of course, come through - that nature has managed to sort things out, but I am - and this year there's been the added difficulty of the newly acquired puppy following her natural instinct by burying a variety of toys and chews and then forgetting where they are and digging up - yes, the bulbs. I didn't know dogs really did that. No amount of training so far has had much impact but I live in hope. (Interestingly, I have now become quite obedient whereas she can only manage to ignore me on command.)

I am slightly embarrassed by the wayward planting and the fact that I'm not quite sure which species or variety ended up where but one of the joys of gardening is the unexpected pleasure of a perfect combination of plants which seems to have happened on its own. Sometimes that can be contrived and sometimes it happens by mistake - my fingers are crossed. So, within the next few weeks I expect to see the rare, perhaps even unheard of, combination of snowdrops, narcissus, early tulips, quince and amelanchier in bloom all at the same time. I'm trying not to hold my breath in the expectation of this glorious but improbable sight but I am out there every day checking on progress. It must be Spring again.

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

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**We may be able to help you ! Ring and ask on Cambridge (01223) 237459**

**THE OAKINGTON THERAPY CENTRE**

# SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Housing Development As many readers will know, Cottenham has two sites allocated for large scale housing development. Together they will add approximately 400 new houses to the village. The larger site, running behind the High Street from Broad Lane to Crowlands, is being developed by Beazer Homes. The smaller site, running behind Denmark Road and the High Street, from Beach Road to the Village College, has been acquired by Wimpey Homes.

On both sites, houses are being designed to reflect the requirements of the Cottenham Design Statement which forms part of the Council's

planning policy. Financial contributions to both primary and secondary education in Cottenham will be made by both developers. The education authority is suggesting that a second primary school may now be needed for Cottenham. and residents and parents may wish to consider the pros and cons of this proposal, so that views can be made known at the appropriate time.

## Housing development in South Cambridgeshire

By the time you read this you will have received information about projected housing growth in Cambridgeshire and, hopefully, you will have returned the questionnaire

supplied. The District Council is pressing for the minimum growth option and is hoping that residents will back this when completing their questionnaires, which need to be returned by 13 April at the latest.

Conservation A new Conservation Officer has been appointed by South Cambridgeshire in succession to John Selby. Rob Walker, from Cambridgeshire County Council, takes up his post at the end of March.

Most of the centre of Cottenham is a conservation area and the village also contains a number of listed buildings. If you need advice about your property, the Conservation Section can probably help and can also advise if a grant would be available. Telephone 01223 443177 for further details, or contact your District Councillors (see back page of the Newsletter).

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## FRENCH TWINNING UPDATE

A group of about 40 people from the five villages covered by the Fen Edge Community Association (Landbeach, Waterbeach, Cottenham, Rampton and Willingham) met in

January to discuss the plans to twin the Fen Edge Patch with Avrille, near Angers in the Loire Valley. Cultural and sporting groups were represented, together with Parish Chairmen and District Councillors and other interested individuals. A broad range of groups have also asked to be kept informed as to progress.

The Twinning Association of Avrille has invited a delegation from the Fen Edge to join their celebration

weekend in June, and we plan to have 12-15 representatives travelling to take part. Following this, we hope to inaugurate the Fen Edge Twinning Association.

Our French colleagues are particularly interested in involving local groups (sports, arts, gardening, horticultural) in the twinning, as well as individuals interested in fostering good relations at the personal level. We are particularly eager to hear from any group in the Fen Edge area which thinks it might like to take part. For more information contact John and Deborah Loveluck, tel 01954 252267, Chris Couchman on 01954 200824 or Steve Howie, 01954 250823.

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## COTTENHAM CRICKET CLUB

Local cricket survives only on the progression of young players and this year we are in the local County Cricket Association (CCA) Junior Leagues. Young people aged between 11 and 15 years who are interested in cricket can attend free indoor coaching and practice at nets during the Easter holidays. This facility has been arranged with Geoff Redhead at Cottenham Village College.

Outside nets will also be available, weather permitting, with the venues to be arranged. If you are interested and would like further information, contact Cottenham Cricket Club's Chairman, Keith Dalton, on 01954 250896, or the Secretary, Mick Dean, on 01954 250037,

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# JASPER KAY'S BIRD REPORT - February

I recently asked a girl in our garden if she could hear the robin singing. She replied "No, I can only hear the cars going by". This made me realise that listening is not easy. We select the things we hear, and listening to bird song requires practice. It is almost impossible to describe the noise that a bird makes, and although there are cassettes and CDs of bird song, the best way to learn is by listening to a bird which you can see.

Now is the ideal time of the year, when birds are beginning to sing. Robins have been singing all winter and most gardens will have one. Close to the house you can also hear

the restless noise of the blue tit, the repeated double note of the great tit (sometimes likened to the noise of a rusty saw), the frantic alarm call of the blackbird, the chirping of the sparrow and the wide variety of noises of the starling. These birds can all be heard also in the bushes of Broad Lane, Church Lane, Long Drove and Steeplechase Drove.

Now add to these the song thrush, which usually sings from the middle of a tree, and the mistle thrush which sings from the top of a tree, often in windy conditions. Both birds repeat their short phrases. Above us there are many skylarks singing, and we can hear lapwings

(with the call which gives it another name, "peewit"), jackdaws (a short "jack") and rooks and crows. More difficult, but just as common, are chaffinch, greenfinch, yellowhammer and dunnoek. If we can manage to identify some of these, then we should be ready for the chiffchaff in late March and the cuckoo in mid-April.

The Cottenham Birdwatch Group 97 has finished its year-long study of birds in the Fen Edge Patch and is about to publish the report of its findings. This should be available in early April, price £1.00 plus postage. To obtain a copy, contact Jasper Kay, 85 High Street, Cottenham, tel. 01954 250485.

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## JAZZIN' AROUND!

On the evening of February 2nd, as announced, jazz was once again alive and well and strutting its stuff in Cottenham - so alive and well that it sold out a fortnight beforehand. The Frog Island Jazz Band played in an absolutely packed Old Schoolroom, to an audience who were delighted to discover that their reed player is now the legendary Cy Laurie!

Cy worked the London jazz clubs during the 50's when the 'trad' revival was at its height. During the next three decades Cy played all over Britain, in the 80's with his Mardi Gras show. Listening to him play now, he still has terrific mastery over his instrument, and I have

rarely heard a clarinet played with such 'bite' - joining the Frog Island, not to mention playing in Cottenham, is just the next stage of a very distinguished career.

The whole evening was a great success and we look forward to the next one on April 6th, when Bob Dwyer's Hot Seven will entertain us with tunes associated with and played in the style of another legend, Bix Beiderbecke - jazz in the 'Chicago' style. Remember, it is

ESSENTIAL to book in advance. *Tony Pearson, tel. Cottenham 250135*

(Editor: Tickets may well be sold out by the time this Newsletter reaches you, but Tony tells us that his next date at the Old Schoolroom will be on June 1st, so get on the mailing list for that one! TP is now official Cottenham correspondent for the Cambridge Evening News and the Cambridge Weekly News. Call him on the above number if you have anything to report.

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CAMBRIDGE  
BUILDING SOCIETY

Abigail Concannon

# FEN REEVES - COTTENHAM'S COMMUNITY WOODLAND

A big thank you to all the residents of Cottenham and surrounding villages who took the trouble to bring their old Christmas trees along to our annual Xmas Tree collecting day. There was a good response and more trees were collected this year than last. The Committee would like to thank Mr. Ken Hewitt of Eastern Landscapes, who has agreed to shred the trees. The chip-pings will be spread around the base of the trees in the woodland later in the year, and we are planning a collection day again on January 10th, 1999,

1997 was a bad year for the woodland in terms of damage from mindless vandals, more fencing ripped out, the steps at the lode end and the footpath signs broken. The Committee will not be put off and, on the positive side, the nesting boxes supplied and fitted by the Cubs back in 1996 were used, the trees are growing well and the pond plants flourished in their first year.

1998 will be a good year for the woodland as we intend to celebrate our 5th anniversary. Although 14th March 1993 was our tree planting day, we have decided to delay the unveiling of the new interpretation boards until 15th May, when our

Member of Parliament, Mr. James Paice, has agreed to perform the honours.

More good news is that later in the year a replacement sign board will be painted for us by a student at the Village College. Plans are also being made to approach local companies in the area to find a sponsor to provide seating and tables - hopefully more people will come to the woodland and make use of this facility.

If you require more information about the woodland or the Fen Reeves group, please contact Peter Coles at The Wake, 13 High Street, Wilburton, or Andrew Snelson at 7 Foundry Close, Cottenham.



## POPPY APPEAL RECORD

The Cottenham and Rampton branch of the Royal British Legion collected a record sum of £4,272.45 (including £1,400 from the Women's Section) for the 1997 Poppy Appeal. The National Organiser, in recognising this record total, has requested that thanks be conveyed to the Branch, the voluntary collectors and everyone who assisted. The Branch Officers and Committee, in turn, wish to express their thanks to the residents of Cottenham and Rampton for their generous donations, and to the shops, public houses, schools and businesses who permitted collecting boxes and poppies to be placed in their premises.

Plans are being made for the 1998 Appeal, and the Branch has need of collectors (over 16) to fill vacancies. If you are able and prepared to spare about 2 or 3 hours in October/November to assist with the Poppy Appeal, please telephone 01954 250172 for further information.

WHEN YOU GO HOME, TELL THEM OF US AND SAY 'FOR THEIR TOMORROW WE GAVE OUR TODAY'. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

### CONTACT YOUR LOCAL INSTRUCTOR

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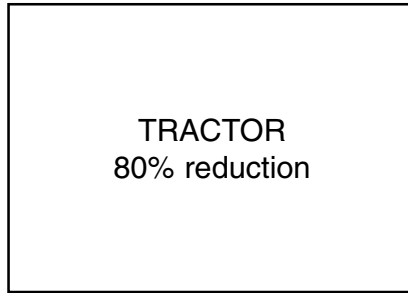
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# YESTERYEAR ROAD RUN

Sunday 19th April

Watch out for us again on Sunday 19th April. We promise another great day out for the family. Come and see our parade of more than 200 cars, motorcycles, tractors, commercial vehicles, buses, fire engines etc.

We leave Cottenham Green at 09.30, passing through Rampton, Willingham, Over, Swavesey, Longstanton, Oakington and Histon, returning to Cottenham at 4 pm. On the Green all day there will be a display of working engines and farm machinery and also a fair and refreshments, and from lunchtime there will be stalls. On Histon Green there will be small fairground



amusements, stalls and refreshments.

All proceeds go to Magpas once again, so come along, enjoy yourself and help us fundraise. This is our fifth year - last year we raised over £6,000 for Magpas, which was spent on radio equipment for the Doctors. Many thanks to all of you who have helped us achieve such a fantastic result on what proved to be an enjoyable day for so many. If you would like to participate in any way, contact *Frances Hedger* on 01954 250965

# SWIMMING IS FOR ALL!

Do you recall those long hot summer days of 1997 when our great joy was a daily refreshing and invigorating swim in the friendly atmosphere of the refurbished outdoor pool at Cottenham Village College? Or the family barbecues with water fun in the cool of the evening?

We are busy preparing for the 1998 season with our special times for families, adults, and lane swimming in addition to the general sessions. But we DO need some more supervisors to maintain this full programme.

We are holding training/retraining sessions including First Aid on May 18, 19 and 21 and would welcome new volunteers to our band of helpers. If you are willing and able, please contact Geoff Redhead at the College, tel. 01954 288944 for further information. Watch out for our posters and timetables.

OPENING ON MAY 2nd.

## NEWS FROM FEN EDGE PATCH

With summer round the corner, our new courses offer the chance to learn some skills which you can use in summer sports - golf, tennis and swimming. We shall also be offering a short course in bricklaying to help you build your garden wall or barbecue.

We have planned a few Saturday Day Schools during May - life drawing, painting outdoors, aromatherapy and introduction to word processing.

### Summer School, August 10-14.

You may like to pick up a leaflet and browse through the courses on offer at our Summer Schools. Arty subjects are always popular, so along with old favourites we are offering new crafts - dyeing, spinning, silk screen printing, patchwork and woodcarving. A course which could appeal to younger people as well as adults will produce working models, or maybe bridge, cookery and health take your fancy. All are 3-day courses, a new feature

for this year. Also, Mike Petty, the well-known regular contributor to the Cambridge News, will be leading a week on the Isle of Ely, combining lectures and discussions with field visits. Further details from Community Office, Cottenham Village College, tel. 01954 288944

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## TABLE TOP SALE AT COTTENHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Saturday 4th April, 10.00am - 12 noon.

Any offers of items for sale would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds will go toward the cost of bringing 60 children from Belarus to this country for a holiday (see below).

## CHERNOBYL HOLIDAY CHILDREN COMING TO COTTENHAM

June 12th - 19th

During the above week, sixty children will be coming to this country from Belarus, a country next to Russia, for a holiday. Ten of them, plus two adult leaders, will be staying in Cottenham with host families. The children are aged between 8 and 14 years, and just a few weeks in a radiation-free environment can extend their lives by up to three years.

The total cost is in excess of £20,000 and to date about three-quarters of this has been raised. If there are any individuals, organisations or companies who would like to help with a donation, please contact Paul Shepherd, Secretary of Cottenham Baptist Church, tel. 01954 200038

## CHILDREN'S HOSPICE FOR THE EASTERN REGION - GALA DAY

Hospice logo  
enlarge by 44%

There will be a Wild West Gala Day at the Hospice, Church Lane, Milton on Saturday 16th May, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm, entry and car park FREE. The attractions include Cowboys Shoot-Outs and Indian Teepees, Tractor Rides, Bouncy Castle, Postman Pat and his van, Face Painting and Bric-a-

brac. Also Refreshments, Cakes and Plants.

Guided tours round the Hospice will be offered throughout the day. For more information call the Funding Development Office on 01223 441221.

THE HOSPICE CARES,  
IN EVERY WAY, FOR  
LIFE LIMITED CHILDREN,  
THEIR FAMILIES AND  
ALL WHO ARE  
SPECIAL TO THEM.

## A PLEA FROM ANGUISHED RESIDENTS - CALLING ALL DOG OWNERS

The ever present problem of dogs fouling the pavement crops up regularly. I had a phone call from a resident to ask if we could again appeal to dog owners to clear up after their pets. I had noticed that I was picking my way gingerly over pavements and, in one case, the mess seemed to have extended a foot or so up a neighbour's garden wall (not that I was walking up the wall, you understand).

Many people are seen out and about with their dogs and plastic

bags, and this is much appreciated by everyone, but there is still a substantial amount of mess around. The law on prosecutions for fouling has changed and OWNERS CAN NOW BE PROSECUTED FOR FAILING TO CLEAR THE MESS

This is apparently an easier prosecution than was possible under the previous law. *Ruth Rogers*

PLEASE HELP KEEP THE VILLAGE PAVEMENTS CLEAN!

R.J. CARPENTER, M.I.M.I.

**Ralph's Workshop**

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Cottenham

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PARKER DECOR

# **A DAY AT THE SALVATION ARMY**

For one hundred and twelve years, the Salvation Army has been working in the village of Cottenham, both as a Christian Church meeting the spiritual needs of the village, and for the social and practical well-being of this community. Yet our work is not well known, other than the annual Red Shield Appeal and perhaps the sight of our band playing the traditional Christmas Carols.

However, much much more goes on in our Hall in the High Street, and also in the secondary hall at the rear of the main building. This is a multi-purpose building which has

been refurbished with a modern kitchen and toilet block, and which is affectionately known as "The Barn" (because it was a barn).

We would like to invite you and your families, whatever their age, to join us on Saturday 4th April 1998, from 10.00 am onwards, for tea, coffee and biscuits, to see what we do and to join in any activity which you may fancy. Enjoy the day, or part of the day, in fun, entertainment and friendship. Why not come and see for yourself - you are assured of a welcome.

## **DON'T MISS THE THIRD COTTENHAM TOY LIBRARY NEARLY NEW SALE**

of Under Five's clothes and equipment

on Saturday 28th March, 9.30 - 11.00 am at the Baptist Church.

Terrific bargains to buy, also the opportunity to sell any outgrown children's clothes (also maternity) or no longer used baby equipment.

You take 80% of the sale, and 20% goes to Cottenham Toy Library.

For more details, please call Carol on Cottenham 251528

# **THE DOORSTEP SERVICE**

Can you, or someone you know, no longer get to a library because of mobility problems or ill health? Are you a Carer who can no longer get to a library because of your caring responsibilities? If so, the Doorstep Service might be the answer. It is a County Council service which aims to give people with particular problems equal access to books, talking books and music.

If you are interested, contact your Area Co-Ordinator (see below) who will visit you to discuss your needs. She will then try to find you a volunteer Library Visitor who will come once a month with the books etc. that have been chosen for you. Current users of the Service and Library Visitors have reported that many good friendships have been made along the way.

*Hilary Firth, Cambridgeshire  
Education, Libraries and Heritage  
Dept., 01223 718358*

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## **THE RAMPTON 77 COMMITTEE**

will be holding a Family Relay Race at Giant's Hill, Rampton, starting at 2.30 pm on Sunday 17th May. The event will be a run in which the members of each team run a short leg of a relay around the Giant's Hill site. There will be different levels of event depending on the ability of the teams, but distances generally will be short.

Also, there will be a picnic, refreshments, and prizes for the winners. We are hoping for an enjoyable family day out - to enter, just turn up on the day. The entry fee is £2.00 per team.

Rampton 77 Committee is a local committee which organises community events and raises money for charity. If you have any enquiries about the Relay Race please telephone Gavin Cameron on 01954 252493.

HELMET

## **100 YEARS Grand Open-Day at Cottenham Fire Station**

Cottenham Fire Station are having a Grand Open-Day on 6th June '98 to celebrate One Hundred Years of Retained Fire Fighters in the Village. The Station will be open to the public from 2.00pm to 4.00pm with a full and various range of Fire Appliances from all over the County. There will also be Static Displays, Fire Safety stands and videos, and of course Welephant. Refreshments will also be available.

Everybody is very welcome,  
so Please Support your Local Fire Station.

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# ANYONE FOR THE LAST SLICE OF CAKE?

Many people relish a cuppa and a slice of cake or a biscuit at the Village College after an event, such as the forthcoming Fun Run on May 2nd.

The Community Association relies on a small band of faithful but sometimes wearied bakers to produce the goodies, a small band

which could no doubt be bigger if only we knew the right people to ask. Please let us know if, once or twice during the year, you would be happy to bake a cake or some biscuits for a Community Association event. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, so don't feel intimidated. If we had a longer list of people to call upon, it would be so much easier.

Perhaps you would like to put your name down - or your sons or daughters? Anyone!

You may leave your name with Jenny Kay at the Community Office - either call in or phone Cottenham 288944, or contact me at 36 Corbett Street.

*Miranda O'Bolguidhir*



## **COTTENHAM FUN RUN SATURDAY 2nd MAY**



**10.30 a.m. from Cottenham Village College**

Registration from 9.00 a.m.

Course length c. 4.5 Miles

Registration fee £2.50 Adults £1.00 Children

*Further information contact: Andrew & Catherine Snelson tel: 01954 200138*

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# MOYRA RIDES AGAIN

Hello again! Spring! It seems to have arrived rather earlier than I thought! Er, hm, so why aren't you working yet? Well, um, er, yes, I am still recovering slowly, slowly and I am going to have to take a few more months off work. Why? Well, although I look rather well I do tire very easily and I am not ready to start again just yet.

A few of weeks ago a friend suggested that we could go to a couple of animal shelters, just to have a look at the cats. We went to the Blue Cross in Cambridge and spent ages looking through all the grilles, but no cat there really caught my eye. I was not planning to choose a cat anyway, no, no, we were just going to look. So after lunch at Tesco in Royston I then drove to the Wood Green Animal Shelter at Heydon, where I was told they had hundreds of cats.

The very first one I saw there looked gorgeous. It was a silver tabby and so like my old Malteser. However, a lady had just walked into that enclosure and was cuddling the tabby. She said "you can't have this one because I'm going to have it." I remember thinking "blast, you would want that on."

We walked in and out of all the other enclosures and huge cages and met all sorts of cats. Lots were black or black and white, but there were hardly any tabbies. Quite a few of the cats had been there for a long time.

Time ticked by and I could not make my mind up. It was now 2.45 pm and the place closed at 3 pm. We went into the office and who should be in there but the lady who had cuddled the tabby. "Oh, by the way," she said, "you can have that cat if you want it, I've fallen for this one!" She had been instantly adopted by a cat which had been at Heydon for two years.

I went back to the tabby and wrote its name and reference number down and asked about it. "Ah, Jade," said the assistant, "oh, she's thirteen. She came in with the other five just yesterday," she said, "their owner died and someone brought all his cats here to Heydon". I went back to the shed and found that Jade had a little tortoiseshell friend called Star who seemed to follow here everywhere. "Er, how old is Star?" Fifteen, came the reply. Oh heck, what could I do? So Jade and Star it was.

Jade looks so like Teaser that it has helped me to get over his loss, though of course no cat can replace him. Star, who I thought was the elderly, sedate, quiet little tortoiseshell, is dominant, crying for attention day and night. Both cats have just discovered Monty, my amazing little clockwork mouse. Oh dear, Monty is terrified! (*Editor: Oh dear indeed, she really has gone mad now*).

Today is a warm sunny day and both cats are out in the back garden. The white blossom is already out on the trees in the field at the back of my house. The birds are singing as though it really is Spring and a tractor is buzzing away in the distance. Why am I telling you all this? It all seems so simple and everyday. Well, suddenly last year, it dawned on me how very short life can be and how every day ought to be treasured and enjoyed and not rushed.

*(Editor again: No, not mad at all, but somebody who has had her priorities right all along. Who can disagree with that.)*

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# Happy Easter



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**Contact Ruth Rogers on  
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# USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Cottenham Day Centre.....	Mrs. M. Gilbey, 45 Victory Way.....	251802
Cottenham Helpline.....	Co-ordinator, Monday/Friday (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....	201590
	Wednesdays (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....	250937
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	Tony Nicholas, 77 Pelham Way.....	201314
County Councillor.....	Peter Stroude, Shire Hall.....	01954 780008/782560
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