

# SWITCHED ON MILLENNIUM

## Millennium

We would like to thank readers and community groups who contributed ideas about how Cottenham could commemorate the millennium. The Community Association is organising a millennium celebration at the Village College, which will include a Ceilidh Band, Cabaret, Children's Entertainment, Fireworks and many other activities. Further details will be announced later. Walter Adams' suggestion for a musical celebration featuring an ensemble of Cottenham choirs and instrumentalists would result in a memorable concert (see the Letters section of this issue for more details). Many other groups are considering other ways to commemorate the millennium, but it is too early to publicise final details. We look forward to all these events being advertised in the newsletter, and we remind readers that the next issue will cover the months of October and

November. Requests for help with the organisation of events, which would be appropriate to the next issue should be notified to the editors by the 25th of August.

There still seem to be no plans for a permanent commemoration of the millennium in the village - any suggestions?

## Library Gets Switched On

Cottenham Library in Margett Street offers free use of a PC to the public. The PC was bought for the library by Cottenham Parish Council and The Cottenham British School Boards Trust. Users can enjoy a number of CD ROMS including the encyclopaedia "Encarta '99". The library also offers the BBC WebWise CD ROM, which is an easy to use tutorial on how to use a PC and how to get the most from the internet. The library is

expecting to have the PC connected to the internet very soon. The library's PC is an excellent tool for researching school projects, and when connected to the internet, will enable a world of information to become available to users. The library also has a printer with which you can print out information from the PC. A charge of 10p per A4 sheet is made to cover the cost of paper and ink. The librarians are only too happy to assist users in getting started on the PC. The library is interested in hearing from proficient PC users who may be able to offer a little time to help coach novice users. Please contact the library if you can help.

## New Features

A number of new features appear in this edition of the newsletter. We have the first in a series of 'Healthwatch' articles by David

*continued on page 3*

B & C Motors

# VILLAGE DIARY

## JULY

- 24th Cottenham Salvation Army. Jumble Sale & Coffee Morning  
10:00am to 11:30am  
25th Cottenham Gardening Club. Garden Visit - Cottenham

## AUGUST

- 3rd Cambridge Osteoporosis Support Group. A talk by Ann Lock -  
Head of Occupational Therapy at Newmarket Hospital.  
Dry Drayton Village Hall 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
8th Cottenham Gardening Club. Specialist Plant Sale  
8th The Great Mill - Aldreth Road, Haddenham. Open day  
2:00pm to 6:00pm  
21st Cottenham Salvation Army. Jumble Sale & Coffee Morning  
10:00am to 11:30am

## SEPTEMBER

- 3rd Cottenham Gardening Club. Variagated Plants - a talk by J. Sharman.  
Cottenham Village College 7:45pm  
5th The Great Mill - Aldreth Road, Haddenham. Open day  
2:00pm to 6:00pm  
7th Parish Council Meeting. Cottenham Village College 7:30pm  
8th Cottenham WI: Franklin Gardens 7:30pm - Bygones, Talk &  
Demonstration by Mr & Mrs R. Brown  
17th Ladybirds Pre-School. Fashion Show. Tickets £3.00  
18th Cottenham Salvation Army. Jumble Sale & Coffee Morning  
10:00am to 11:30am  
19th Cottenham Methodist Church Harvest Festival & Church Anniversary.  
Preacher Sunday 10:45am Rev. David Featonby  
20th Cottenham Methodist Church Harvest Supper 7:00pm  
24th Cottenham Gardening Club. Containers, raised beds and troughs -  
a talk by P. Lewis

# SMALL ADS

**WESTMINSTER PIER TO HAMPTON  
COURT RIVER TRIP**, leaving 8:45am,  
Sept. 2nd.  
Adults £14.50, Senior Citizens and Children  
£13.00.

**NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE  
PRODUCTION OF 'CARMEN'.**  
**THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH**, leaving  
11:00am Oct 9th. Tickets £22.15.

**ANNIE, THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH**,  
leaving 11:00am Oct 19th.

**SCHUBERT'S UNFINISHED  
SYMPHONY AND BRAHM'S REQUIEM  
MASS, PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA,  
FESTIVAL HALL**, leaving 4:45pm  
Saturday Nov 13th.  
Tickets £17.75.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET,  
'COPELIA', THE COLISEUM**, leaving  
11:00am Saturday January 15th. Tickets  
£31.85 maximum.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA, 'THE  
MAGIC FLUTE', THE COLISEUM**,  
leaving 4:30pm January 29th. Tickets  
Adults £27.00, Senior Citizens £25.50.

**For further details on all above contact  
Henry Fleck (01954) 250635.**

**HAMAX** children's bike seats for mounting  
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months and up to 6 years or 22kg. Excellent  
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**Please contact Anne Martin (01954)  
251113**

## SMALL ADS

**Why not advertise in the Newsletter!  
Items for sale, announcement of fam-  
ily events.....  
5p per word, with all proceeds going  
to charity.**



## DIARY NOTES

### Cottenham Toy Library -

Thursdays 2.30 - 4.00 - August 5th & 19th; September 2nd & 16th.

**REFUSE COLLECTIONS - ALTERATIONS FOR AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY  
Friday, 3rd September - collection on Saturday 4th September**

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DIARY DATES -  
THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ENTRIES IN THIS SECTION -  
CHARITY AND CHURCH EVENTS ESPECIALLY WELCOME.



# LADYBIRD PRE-SCHOOL COTTENHAM

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

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Supervisor: Rosemary Miller BA(Hons)  
Registered Charity

**OFSTED APPROVED**

Chairperson: Jenny Bowles  
Member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance

# WAYSIDE GARDEN

There must be many people who have never visited the Community Garden in Cottenham, a lovely retreat in the centre of the village, offering seats surrounded by attractive plants and space for young children to run around.

During August you can also have a cup of tea or coffee each Friday morning (weather permitting) from 10:30 - 11:45am, so next time you're passing why not drop in and enjoy this little oasis.

Wayside Garden - entrance beside 214 High Street. Very convenient for the shops and Franklin Gardens.

# FARMLAND MUSEUM

The Farmland Museum, situated just off the A10, between Cambridge and Ely, has just begun its third season at the site it shares with Denny Abbey. However, this year the collection celebrates its thirtieth anniversary, having been founded in 1969 by the Delanoy family of Haddenham. The collection has grown considerably since its beginning and now houses over 6000 objects.

The collection focuses on the farming of the region, both in the Fenland area and in the southern 'uplands' of the country. Objects on display - which include photographs, machinery and

tools of rural crafts and industries - were made and used by Cambridgeshire people. The younger museum visitor can also enjoy the many hands on activities on the site, designed with the National Curriculum in mind.

This year we have an exciting special events programme, including a Country Food Festival, 1900's Farm and rare breeds animal day, as well as the chance to try one's hand at basket making. Do come and visit The Farmland and Denny Abbey, where the rich heritage of farming and monastic history is preserved at this unique site for the benefit of people both from Cambridgeshire and further afield.

For further details, please call:  
May Catt, Assistant Curator, (01223) 860988 OR 860489

# COTTENHAM SUMMER SCHOOL - A HOLIDAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

Last summer, over 200 people flocked to Cottenham for our Summer School. The standard of teaching is very high and the enjoyment level is high too! Some of our courses are now fully booked, but places are available on others. We specialise in Art and Craft courses, painting, Fenland drawing, weaving with willow as well as wool, patchwork and spinning. As a new venture, we are lucky to have the Cambridge Sculpture Workshop as tutors for the week. Other new courses include T'ai Chi, Discovering Cambridgeshire History and a three day course with

field visits on military aviation in East Anglia. Our brand new computer suite will introduce an innovative course on producing posters, advertisements and invitations (for absolute beginners).

Finally, if you want a cheap-o casual set-up, you can still join Jasper Kay's walking group in the Fens - £10 for the full week, or £2.50 per day. Pick up a brochure! Tell your friends!

Further details from: Cottenham Village College (01954) 288944

*continued from front page*

Bradley, which aim to present information on topical health issues. Our poetry section gets underway with a poem by Tina Kelleway. A short story by Walter Adams in the form of a moral tale is also featured. We look forward to more contributions of short stories and poetry for the next issue.

Please contact the editors if you would like to comment on the content of the newsletter, or with your ideas for features. We are always interested in publishing entertaining and engaging articles as well as advertising events in our very active village of Cottenham.

G B Roofing

## WATCHING BRIEF

# On the street where you live

Two young women were walking home on a fine summer's evening recently, not long after dusk. They were accompanied by a young male friend. Let's call him Dan, though that is not his real name.

The three were talking and laughing as they walked, when a van pulled up suddenly beside them. One of the three men in the front seat of this van leaped from the cab and launched a vicious assault on Dan.

Dan had no idea who his attacker was. There had been no earlier argument or confrontation which might explain the assault. There was no attempt to rob him or his companions. It was, it seems, an unprovoked attack motivated purely by lust for violence.

There are those that describe people who behave like this as 'no better than animals'. But this is a grave insult to animals, which never, so far as Watchman knows, indulge in violence for the sake of it. Regrettably, we have to take responsibility for the fact that it is humankind alone which is capable of depravity.

Dan did the sensible thing. Having been knocked to the ground, he adopted the foetal position and tried to protect his body with his arms and legs as best he could. The young women were paralysed by shock and terror and could do nothing.

Fortunately the thug was so drunk that he couldn't aim his cowardly kicks and blows very accurately or powerfully. When the brainless brawler had done with his victim, he climbed back into the van, which then sped off into the night. Dan was able to limp home, rela-

tively unscathed but bewildered and very frightened.

Watchman thought you should know about this. It happened here in Cottenham.

### A public ordure offence

It's not an uncommon sight around this village: person looking at sky, whistling or humming tunelessly; dog on end of lead, squatting and straining. The body language tells you that the dog walker has no intention of scooping the poop and disposing of it properly.

Here is the Watchman solution to the whistling/squatting tableau. You can shame the perpetrator simply by announcing loudly that you will be arranging for delivery of the ordure to his or her address as a matter of urgency. The culprit is invariably too abashed and surprised to spot that you probably have no idea where he or she lives.

### Cottage industry

And so to happier matters. Surely everyone in the village has been cheered by the exquisite restoration of that ancient cottage attached to No 316 High Street, down by The Green.

While many older homes in Cottenham have been 'modernised' with plastic replacement windows — and, even more unaccountably, plastic

front doors — it's a delight to see this little gem of domestic architecture being brought back to life with such loving care and attention to detail.

So the Watchman Award for Getting It Right goes without hesitation to the owners of the cottage, master plumber Kevin Julian and his wife Kathryn. And, while we're about it, let's also embarrass the man who has been carrying out this exemplary work — Richard 'Bonk' Conolly, master builder of this parish.

### Signs of confusion

We were idly scanning the properties in an estate agent's window during a recent week's holiday in Cornwall. One offering was described as 'a very pretty former fisherman's cottage'. We were tempted to make an appointment to view. Not to buy, but out of curiosity to discover just how pretty the former fisherman would turn out to be.

On the way home we saw another sign, advertising a 'Giant Boot Sale'. Surprisingly, the event was drawing quite a crowd. But the oddest thing was that nobody seemed to have specially large feet.

Strange lot, those Cornish.

**Watchman**

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

**THE OAKINGTON THERAPY CENTRE**

# MILLENNIUM - AGE CONCERN AWARD

Some of you will know that the grant we received from the Millennium Commission through Age Concern has brought new excitement and interest to our lives. Others may like to hear what has happened so far. Our writing workshop was a happy combination of students from the Village College and Over 60's. Since then, there has been an outing to Wimpole Hall, with two minibuses full of residents from Cottenham Court and students, and we are planning a visit to Duxford along similar lines. An original idea was for students and Over 60's to join together

to plant a patio pot, having painted it beforehand, so we look forward to bright attractive results. Roger Daw will be leading a local history project drawing on the expertise that older people have to share with younger people.

In the autumn, we are planning joint workshops for singing and music making, sculpture and environmental concerns. Please look out for further details, or contact us if you would like to put your name down for any of these activities, which will be led by visiting professional experts.

## NAVAL TRIVIA

Dame Agnes Weston was the founder of a network of Royal Sailor's Rests at the end of the 19th century. These 'Homes from Home' provided home comforts with a strong temperance commitment and to this day are much appreciated by sailors. Such was the genuine affection for the Sailor's Friend that when the frigate HMS Weston-Super-Mare was launched, she was immediately labelled 'Aggie-on-horse-back'.

*Old Salt*

A small group paid a recent visit to Poundbury in Dorset. As you may be aware this is the new village designed and built with the sponsorship of Prince Charles and serves as an interesting model of how a well designed "new" development incorporating a mix of housing types, sizes and styles into a modern context with traditional building techniques can be assimilated into the environment. It certainly reflects remarkably similar principles to those set out in Cottenham's Design Statement. The trip was enriched by the addition of visits to Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door and the fossil-rich cliffs near Lyme Regis. Poundbury slides will be shown at a meeting in September.

Join the group to be sure of receiving details of our activities. We welcome new members, with new enthusiasms. Your views are important. Your village environment is important. If we pool our resources we can help Cottenham develop for the benefit of us all. If you're interested in joining contact Bill Miller, Membership Secretary, (01954) 252101.

## COTTENHAM VILLAGE DESIGN GROUP

What is it? What does it do? The enclosed leaflet explains. The invited speaker at the AGM earlier this year, Sharon Hearle (Cambridge Green Belt Officer), inspired us to consider undertaking an audit of local waterways, ponds, hedges and trees. We are now actively investigating how to set about the task and hope to involve the Wildlife Group and the Footpath Group to draw on their expertise.

A successful public meeting arranged by the Group and somewhat spuriously called "Cottenham Keynes?" explored public and private thoughts and plans for the expansion of housing in South Cambs. The prestigious line-up of speakers included Shirley Saunders, formerly Chair of South Cambs District

Council, Keith Miles, Planning Officer at South Cambs District Council and Peter Dawe, the man behind the initiative for a Cambridge new town as one solution to new development. In Cottenham we are already experiencing two large housing developments. The Group was invited to give their views, in line with Design Statement guidelines, on the Wimpey development behind Denmark Road and the various stages of development by Beazer Homes down Broad Lane. The second stage of the latter development has been agreed and there are current discussions with Bovis about stage three, aiming to encourage designs and layouts which will both enhance and retain the unique character of Cottenham.

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# ST GREGORY FOUNDATION

Earlier this year we had a wonderful response to an appeal for storage space for the piles of boxes of donations to be sent to needy people in Russia and Ukraine. We now have the use of a lovely, accessible dry barn in the High Street, taking pressure off an overflowing cellar. Not only did we receive several kind offers of accommodation, but quantities of clothing, shoes, materials, haberdashery, wool, sewing machines and knitting machines. All of these have been carefully sorted and packed and will shortly be collected and sent to Ukraine. We would like to thank everyone who has responded to the appeal. The aid we send goes a small way to help alleviate increasing poverty and despair in Russia and Ukraine and is hugely appreciated there. Our efforts are on-going, so whenever you think of throwing something out, throw it in our direction first! We can arrange collection if you are unable to deliver (Tel. 01954-251667 Address 102 High Street, Cottenham.)

The charity donated £3,000 to the Kosovo inter charity appeal from its central fund as it was not able to send aid direct.

Liz Cook

## ARTICLES, DATES AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

E-mail, PC floppy disk and paper submissions are all welcome. PC floppy discs will be returned to contributors.....eventually! Please contact me if you have any questions. Dates of events to be advertised in the next issue (No. 53) should span the last week of September, and the months of October and November.

CAMBRIDGE  
BUILDING SOCIETY

# HEALTHWATCH BY DAVID BRADLEY

## Cancer alarm clock

UK scientists have found a way to stop breast tumours by 'winding up' the clock that tells cancer cells when to die. Our cells have a built-in alarm clock that makes them 'self-destruct', this lets get rid of old or damaged cells to make way for new ones to grow. When an enzyme called 'telomerase' goes wrong though, cells do not hear the alarm, grow out of control, and can form tumours. Professor Rob Newbold of Brunel University has found a way to switch off this enzyme. His discovery might one day lead to a new type of anticancer drug that blocks the enzyme setting off the alarm for cancer cells to self-destruct.

About 14000 women in the UK die from breast cancer every year. According to Gordon McVie, Director of the Cancer Research Campaign, this research opens new doors in the fight against the disease. Cancer Research Campaign: 10 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1 4JL

## Coffee does your head in

If you feel stressed in the afternoon it could be down to how many cups of coffee you had in the morning. More than four cups, and you might also be bumping up your chances of a stroke or heart disease in later life. Coffee contains caffeine, which raises blood pressure and pumps stress hormones into the blood, according to American scientists. Even if you avoid coffee in the

afternoon your body will still act as if it is under stress well into the evening. The scientists found adrenaline, the body's 'fight or flight' hormone, surging through the blood of morning coffee drinkers all day. The answer's obvious - cut down on the coffee.

If you want to know more about cutting your risk of heart disease contact the British Heart Foundation on (0171) 9350185

David Bradley is a freelance science and medical writer and can be contacted through his Elemental Discoveries web site at :

<http://www.camsoft.com/elemental/>

## CARECAR - VOLUNTEERS!

Carecar in Cottenham has just entered its fifth year of operation and its 50,000th mile of providing invaluable transport to the elderly and infirm in the village.

This is a success story constantly poised on the edge of disaster. The disaster can be avoided with a few more volunteers with cars and the ability to drive them! If you can spare a little time and would like to become a Carecar voluntary driver, please contact Barbara Ashton-Reader on 251837 for further information.

## VACUUM CLEANER SERVICE & REPAIR

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Cottenham, Tel: 01954 200904

# OLD COTTENHAM – BOYHOOD MEMORIES

In Histon Road just before the former 'Garden Gate' tavern, a drove on the left leads to a large area of land which my father, Bill Taylor, called 'The Glebe' or 'The Pastures'. In the years leading up to, and indeed after, the Second World War, many acres of strawberries were grown there. The B.G (Brenda Gautrey) and Leopold strawberries were at their peak. The B.G.'s tasted splendid, but I myself as a young lad, always marvelled at the shape of the Leopolds. To me, many grew to the form of large butterflies and were a very attractive colour.

In those years, my father's strawberries went to W.E.Smith's of Nottingham. The agent for this fruit merchant was Mr 'Abb' Todd, who lived in Denmark Road, just at the bottom of Telegraph Street. If I was feeling a bit off-colour and away from school, I would be in The Glebe helping my parents. "You can start walking the 'chips' (2lb and 4lb baskets) up to the

headland", dad would say. "'Abb' will be here at 2pm to collect 'em. Don't spill 'em and don't tread on 'em". Mr Todd had a green lorry, no sides, just a platform back for easy loading. He would drive past both our and Mr Hopkins' land, and disappear into Mr Norman's field to turn around. Mr Norman was a farmer from Landbeach, his field had a large gap in the hedge, and at that point a broad headland. At one side of the gap, just in the hedge, stood an Ash tree, which had a really wonderful shape, a scene one never really seems to forget.

To me, Mr 'Abb' Todd was always laughing. No matter how much he laughed, the unlit pipe in his mouth never fell out. My memory of him in those years was of him appearing in brown trousers and a waistcoat, which was part of a suit, and a grey trilby. After loading, he would pick up other small-holders' strawberries and depart for Oakington station.

They were wonderful characters, those small-holders around that area. Messrs Hoplins, Carrier, Fred and Harry Peck, to name but a few. All of them were great strawberry growers. And what do children like best with strawberries ? - ICE CREAM !

Mr Lou Sylvester would stop at the top of New Road in Rook Street on fine summer Saturday evenings to sell his ice cream. His motor vehicle was cream coloured with brown mudguards, and was of an open plan, the roof being supported at the four corners by spiral decorated posts. Lou would appear spotless, all in white, except for the brown 'pork pie' hat that he sported. His familiar call ' Okee O, so nice I cry, anybody else please!' would invite all to sample his ice cream. Mr Sylvester came from Cambridge, the family keeping the ice cream business in East Road.

*Michael Taylor*

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## COTTENHAM SALVATION ARMY

**Everyone is always welcome at the Salvation Army!**

We invite you to join us at worship, or at our weekly events.

- Sunday Worship at 11:15am & 6:30pm (6:00pm in winter)
- Sunday JAM Club for children 10:00 - 11:00am

• Monday Bible Study 7:30pm (fortnightly)

• Tuesday Barn Owls Toddler Group 9:30am

• Wednesday Luncheon Club 12:00pm

• Wednesday Home & Family Fellowship 2:30pm

• Thursday Coffee Mornings 10:00am (fortnightly)

• Saturday Jumble Sale 10:00am (monthly)

Other meetings as advertised.....

For further details and information please telephone 250524 or 200649

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# "ALL CHANGE.....!!" - COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Now look, I'm really sorry about this - I mean, it's not as if I didn't have that much of an active role in this community as it was.....it's just that, well, the story goes like this.

Mike Herbert had been chairman of the Community Association for three years, up until April 29th, when, at the annual general meeting, he had to stand down.

I happened to be at the afore-mentioned meeting, which, I thought, was going splendidly well. Up until, that is, when Mike stepped down and item 4 was reached on the agenda - "the election of new officers", starting off with a new chairman. Having never been to a community association meeting before (I'm usually teaching or writing panto's or something), I was very interested to see what happened at this point. The answer was quite simple - nothing happened! Everyone seemed to have found a sudden fascination in studying their shoes. So, I then ventured to ask what I thought was just a general question - exactly what was entailed in "chairing" the Community Association? Bad move, in retrospect - because five minutes later, amongst many comments such as "young blood, just what we need.....", I found myself being welcomed as the new chairman!

Ironically, I didn't have the first clue about Community Association or it's members!! And that is my reason for writing this to you now. Since being a

part of Cottenham, and, indeed, running a group that is member of the Community Association, I've always known that the Community Association was there - but I've never really known what it was or what it was for. Anyone else find themselves agreeing with this?? Then read on.

The Community Association is responsible for many of the local events that we've all come to expect and love throughout the year - Fun Run and Market, Autumn Show, Feast of Sound, New Year's Eve party, the list goes on. It has also been very successful in projects such as fund-raising and organization of the new Community mini-bus. It is able to consider and award, where appropriate, grants to member groups - of which there are over 40.

Group members range from well known, large groups like Cottenham Theatre Workshop to smaller groups like Cottenham Wine and Beer Circle or Cottenham and Rampton Gardener's Club. Are you involved in a small group in the Fen Edge Patch? Perhaps you could benefit from joining the Community Association. The benefits of this include a reduced fee for use of the college for meetings, functions, etc. and the right to apply for grants for your group. Mini-bus hire is also available. Membership rates are minimal and it is easy to apply.

Of course, people such as yourselves

are needed to ensure that the running of the Community Association continues. The current committees are made up of very faithful and familiar faces, thank goodness - but new volunteers are desperately needed. People who have an active interest in the Community may rest assured that if you would like to join our team, it would be on the understanding that you would not be expected to sit through endless meetings, the contents of which were 80% irrelevant to you personally. I appreciate fully that in the modern Community, many people work and can only offer "hands-on" assistance during an event itself - that is fine. Times change, after all.

I would love you to come forward, even if only to express an interest and to ask for further details of the Community Association. Now is the time to do it. My hope is to format a new network of community members who can offer their services to just one specific duty throughout the yearly Community Association Calendar. And if there did have to be a meeting, why not at some-one's house over a bottle of wine? Or in a quiet corner at the local pub?

Thanks for listening. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Benji Warwick - Community Association Chairperson*

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HIGHGATE FARM EXISTING AD

# Poetry Corner

A light in the summer  
And sweet smells in spring  
Are the reasons for breathing  
The air that you bring.

Music, melodies of true love  
Never sung before,  
And the branches in the trees  
Seem to glitter as they bow down to the floor.

Lonely tears fell into the soil,  
Life was washed away,  
It blended with the waves,  
The cool sand burned my inner soul  
And distant voices called from yesterday.

Only being close to stars,  
Breathing stars,  
Watching from a new dimension,  
Darkness, yet a blinding light  
Lit the world.  
It grew within the depths of time,  
Time and motion,  
Larger life, brighter stars,  
Rising slowly, rising swiftly.

All around I saw a vision.  
Calm, yet bitter like the wind.  
All at once my eyes grew stronger,  
I can see the love you send.

*Tina Kelleway*

## Short Stories & Poetry

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

## A moral Tale “Too Much of a Good Thing” by Walter Adams.

There was once an English King who was single and wanted to marry. He was happy enough, but was approaching middle age when, one day, a Genie appeared and said to him “aren’t you the lucky one! I am going to give you three wishes”. The King said, “go ahead, I’ll take the first wish”. “Well, tell me your wish,” said the Genie. The King replied, “I wish I could marry the most beautiful woman that I could love dearly”. “That won’t be any trouble”, replied the Genie, and instantly he disappeared. In his stead there stood before the King a beautiful woman. The King took one look at her and immediately fell in love with her, as did everyone else who saw her, for she was such a striking beauty.

Soon the King married her and introduced her to his Court and Subjects. He was wonderfully happy except for one thing, she couldn’t talk - she was dumb!

One day, several months later, the Genie reappeared in front of the King and said, “you know, you took only one of those three wishes - why don’t you take another?” “I think I will”, said the King. “You sent me a beautiful Queen, but she is dumb, she never says a word, because she can’t - she has no voice. She understands everything we say, but we cannot get a word out of her”. “Well” said the Genie, “again it’s no trouble”. Whereupon he promptly cured the Queen of her dumbness and the court was filled with her talk and the beauty of her voice. The Courtiers enjoyed listening to her and so did the King - at first, but as time went by, her voice became a problem, because she never gave it a rest. She was so happy talking; no one could get a word in; for so long she had been unable to talk, that now she was unable to stop! The King still loved her dearly, but he began to grow a little tired of her continuous conversation; she spoke well and interestingly, in a lovely soprano, but it was everlasting.

The King did his best to put up with it, because otherwise she was such a wonderful person. Just as he was at his wit’s end, the Genie once more appeared. “You look rather down in the mouth, your Majesty. Why don’t you make yourself happy? - You still have a third wish”. The King said, “yes, I do have a problem. My wife was dumb and you cured her and gave her the gift of speech, but now she talks so often and

for so long that nobody is able to say a word, and I am beginning to find her constant conversation somewhat tedious”. “What do you want me to do?” the Genie asked. “She gets so much pleasure and fun from talking and she is such a kind and loving person I have no wish to stop her talking, but quite frankly, she is driving me up the wall”, said the king. “I understand your problem”, said the Genie, “but what do you want me to do?” “I don’t know”, said the King. “I don’t want to stop her talking, but things cannot go on as they are”. “I’ve got just the cure for you”, said the Genie. “What’s that?” said the King. “It’s easy, other people don’t hear the Queen all the time so her continuous talking doesn’t upset them - and she does so enjoy talking to you. So I have just the cure for you if you wish”. “Go ahead,” said the King. “Right, I’ll make you deaf,” said the Genie - and he did!

The moral of the story could be that there is something to be said for the lack of our senses. There are times when we all wish to be a little deaf or dumb, or not see something; or maybe, the moral is that one can have ‘too much of a good thing’. Like the King, you can wish for what you think is your heart’s desire, but it may not turn out to be for the best.

## Auction of Promises and Things.

Where could you buy a day’s child-minding, a bottle of malt whiskey, a morning’s gardening, a decorated birthday cake and many more wonderful things, all in one evening and under one roof?

Well, at the Ladybird Pre-school auction of course, which was held at the Sports and Social Club on Saturday the 8th of May. The evening was a resounding success, due to the excellent auctioneer and the good spirits and generosity of everyone present. The auction raised an astounding £2,400 for the Pre-school. Thanks go to all of you who helped make it a success by your generosity. Thanks also go to Cheffins, Grain & Commins for supplying such an excellent auctioneer.

*Rosa Hunt*

# COTTENHAM METHODIST CHURCH

At Cottenham Methodist Church, we extend a warm welcome to anyone wishing to attend our services.

Morning worship takes place every Sunday morning at 10:45am, with Junior Church commencing at 10:30am. The first Sunday of every month is a Family Service. The fourth Sunday of every month is a service of Holy Communion.

Our minister is the Rev. Helen Gardner (01954) 250242

For further details contact either Julie Percival on (01954) 242647 or Jenny Bramford on (01954) 200670.

The hall attached to the Church is available for lettings and has a fully equipped kitchen. For details of lettings and costs involved, please contact either Jenny Bramford on (01954) 200670 or David Warford on (01954) 250523.

# WE HAVE SURVIVED (FOR THOSE BORN BEFORE 1940)

We were born before television, frozen foods, plastic, videos and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, laser beams and ball point pens; before dish-washers, tumble dryers, electric blankets or drip-dry clothes.....and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent - a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'Crumpet' we had for tea.

We were before Day Care Centres, Group Homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors or yoghurt. For us 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus, time sharing meant togetherness and a 'chip' was a piece of wood or a fried potato. Hardware meant nuts and bolts and 'software' was not a word.

Before 1940, 'Made in Japan' meant

junk, 'making out' referred to how you did in exams. 'Stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on the bus of a double-decker to the depot. Pizzas and instant coffee were unheard of.

In our day, cigarettes were fashionable, 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house and 'Pot' was something you cooked in.

A 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment for help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the ways in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and that there is a generation gap today.....BUT by the grace of God WE HAVE SURVIVED!

ADD PICTURE FROM  
PREVIOUS AD

*Sarah and Christine are very pleased to announce the return of KAREN to Sarah Jane's. We look forward to welcoming old and new clients to our salon, where we always aim for friendly service with professional advice.*

# P A D S

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# COTTENHAM GUIDES

I would like to thank everyone involved with the Collection to help our sister Guides, Brownies and Rainbows in the Kosovo Refugee Crisis. We have sent off £406.86 so far, but have not given up collecting yet. If there are any more donations from the area, I will be pleased to forward them on.

Our District event this year was a well attended Teddy Bears' picnic (thankfully blessed with great weather). We raised £94.00 at the picnic for Action Research into childhood diseases.

We have been able to find two wonderful people from the staff of our Village College to save the 50 year old Brownie Unit. Thanks Christine and Louise.

Unfortunately, however, the two leaders from the Thursday Rainbow Unit found that they could no longer run the unit, and so with regret, we have had to suspend that unit until some more wonderful people come forward.

We would love to restart the Rainbow Unit in September, but cannot do it

# PRIMARY CARE GROUP - BOARD MEETINGS

South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Group is responsible for a range of functions relating to health services for local people within the South Cambridgeshire area, including:

- **improving the health of the local population**
- **developing primary and community health services**
- **advising the Cambridgeshire Health Authority on commissioning of hospital and community services**

without help. We have enough children of Rainbow age (5 - 7) on our waiting lists to have THREE units not ONE as we have at present.

If there is anyone out there who wishes to help with the 5 to 7 year olds PLEASE COME FORWARD. We will give you as much support and training as we can.

Contact Vivien Lampard (01954) 200811

The Primary Care Group Board will meet monthly in public and is keen to encourage local people to attend these meetings as observers to enable our discussions and decisions to be understood throughout the locality. So please come along - parking will be available at every venue, with a limited number of disabled parking spaces, and disabled access. Full agendas and papers will be provided at each meeting to enable you to follow the discussions.

The next meeting in Cottenham will be at:

**09:00am on the 23rd September in Cottenham Village College.**

For further information on South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Group Public Board Meetings, please contact Karen Mason, Head of Corporate Services on (01223) 475101, or e-mail: [Karen.Mason@exchange.chh.nhs.uk](mailto:Karen.Mason@exchange.chh.nhs.uk)

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# JASPER KAY'S BIRD REPORT - June 1999.

May and June are the main breeding months for birds and it is always an exciting time. Many people have told me of birds that are breeding in their gardens, and it is good to see birds returning to their usual nesting sites. Swifts are back to the Baptist Church and swallows and house martins have built or rebuilt their nests on a number of houses in the High Street, but not as many as usual. Do the same birds return year after year?

The kestrel is back to the high box at Fen Reeves, and spotted flycatchers have returned to the churchyard. In early June I spent a fascinating evening watching a family of long eared owls in

the village. To my great surprise, we have had a family of coal tits in the garden, a bird I haven't seen here for some years.

Church Lane has its usual number of breeding birds - chiff-chaff, willow warbler, whitethroat, wren, yellow hammer and swallows in the farm buildings.

The 'lagoon' on Long Drove has become a real haven for breeding birds: - moorhen, coot, pied wagtail, little grebe, redshank, lapwing and shelduck. There are skylarks here too, and grey partridges (unusual in this area) as well as plenty of hedgerow birds. Some

unusual birds have been seen here too: - arctic tern, purple heron, little ringed plover and wood sandpiper. Elsewhere in Cottenham, a female golden oriole has been seen and the distinctive voice of a quail has been heard. And I am still waiting to see photos taken of a mystery bird in Foundry Close!

On a recent riverside walk from St Ives to Cottenham I registered over fifty different birds. This large number is partly accounted for by water birds and summer visitors. But it reminds us what a rich bird life we enjoy in this area.

*Jasper Kay*

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# CONFESSIONS OF A TAXI DRIVER

Where have I been? At work! Yes, at long last I have a full time job. Job-hunting was quite a soul destroying task - rejections all round. No-one even wanted to interview me! Was it my age, my past career? My head operation? Well you may laugh, but you'll never know, and neither will I why so many people wouldn't even want to meet me. In the end I added a photo to the application with the words: "This is me!" probably terrorised the nation.

Good lord though how glad I am that I didn't end up photocopying in some office in Cambridge all day. I have a very interesting job dealing mainly with figures - no, not my sort of plump variety - but numbers. I love numbers - I always have. I am learning how to do book-keeping and I'm allowed onto the computer with the warning "Don't press buttons unless you know what will happen if you do!"

Computers have certainly moved on

beyond belief. Last time I had to work on one was in 1986 - the year of the Cambridge Phenomenon. Well now I am the Cottenham Phenomenon - I work here in my home village which means my commuting time is three minutes each way! There are times in life when even ungrateful swine like me look up to the sky and say "Thank you" to whoever it is up there. Thank you for looking after me and sorting me out. I am happier than I have been for years. No longer am I up to being able to drive or work long hours. My life is so relaxed. I can take a break whenever I want and walk in an unspoilt broad leaf orchard. No I am not joking. The people at work could not be kinder. I have seen an orange-tipped butterfly and a tiny red and black thing which I think is a...er, well I'm not sure at all to tell you the truth, despite looking for it in my butterflies and moths handbook! I had never seen either before. Wild flowers and birds abound. Were it not for my ignorance I could enlighten you further.

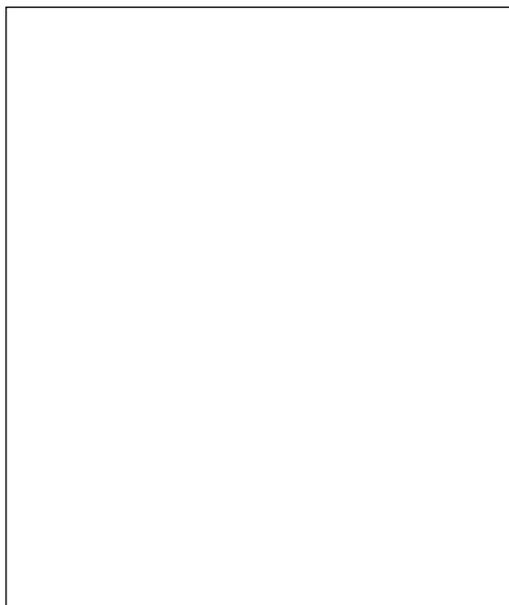
All I know is that this is an oasis in life, a sanctuary I would be loath to ever lose. Since my head operation I can't stand noise and I love peace and quiet. It is now two years since my illness and I am feeling so healthy, but get very exhausted much sooner.

Re: the taxi sign. This relic of my past life has ruffled so many people's sensibilities that the question most people ask is "When are you going to move it?" If a stranger were walking past they could raise an eyebrow not knowing what was being talked about! Well, hence my decision that as this is a matter of public enquiry I do NOT want to remove it! So there! I don't know of any other vehicle with a handle on its roof. When the dear Lord wants to call me all he need do is grasp the handle. It is very often the only way I ever find my car. My memory is at times bizarrely non-existent, so I scan car roofs looking for the handle! So there, now you know! They say there's nowt so queer as folk!

*Moyra Borg*

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## YESTERYEAR ROAD RUN

Many thanks to you all for giving us great support for the Yesteryear Road Run, which took place on Sunday 18th of April.

After a cold grey start, the weather looked favourably upon us as we made our way along the route. The money has now been counted and a magnificent total of £7,250 was raised, which beats last year's total of £6,500. The money will again be donated to MAGPAS to be used to purchase two Defibrillators.

Plans are already underway for next year's Run, which will take place on Sunday 16th of April 2000, and we look forward to seeing you all again.

*Sue Medlow*

PIC S/SIZE  
CROP TO FIT

## COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

We are pleased to learn from Insp. Howells at Histon Police that a new Beat Officer has been appointed for Cottenham. We would like to welcome P.C. David Gent to the village, and look forward to the same friendly co-operation that we received from his predecessor.

Although the Co-op have installed some new signs (one of which was

promptly vandalised), motorists continue to use the Co-op exit as an entrance to the car park, and to park on this dangerous corner. It seems that permanent, physical barriers may be the only solution, and the Council will be discussing measures with Cambs.CC and the Co-op management.

The War Memorial has emerged from behind its plastic screen and looks very splendid with its new lettering.

Most residents, and certainly all par-

ents of young children, are aware of the congestion in Lambs Lane at School times. Unfortunately, inconsiderate behaviour by a minority is making the situation worse than it needs to be. Complaints have been received of:

1. Driving too fast down the Roadway to the Rec - this applies to parents with children at the Pre-School and playgroup.
2. Parking in the Rec. roadway itself - we presume by parents going to the Primary School. This creates a hazard for pedestrians using the roadway for access to the Pre-school and playgroup.
3. Obstructing entrances to adjoining houses in Lambs Lane.  
Please do be considerate when delivering or collecting your children!

Pat Copson makes a very good point in "Letters to the Editors" in the last Newsletter. In this and future newslet-

*continued on next page*

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## LETTERS to the Editors

Millennium.

Dear Editors

I understand the Parish Council is giving some difficulty in finding a suitable event for the village to come together and celebrate the millennium. May I suggest a concert of songs, drawing upon our musical heritage, which many of the older generation will know and the young will find pleasing to sing and hear.

It would feature the massed choirs of the churches of Cottenham, the school choirs, the Cottenham Brass and the Salvation Army, plus two pianists. Perhaps David Warham could be persuaded to conduct the ensemble, and the music teachers from the schools assist him in choosing the programme. The programme could include:

- \* Agincourt Song
- \* Greensleeves
- \* Sea shanties - Heart of Oak etc.
- \* Children's songs - Over the hills and far away, The Framer's Boy etc.
- \* Scottish, Welsh and Irish songs - Londonderry Air, Men of Harlech etc
- \* Trumpet voluntary
- \* Patriotic songs such as - Land of Hope and Glory, Jerusalem etc.
- \* National Anthem

The cost should be minimal and there could be two performances, each of about 60 minutes, at the Village College.

Walter Adams

## SPRING VISIT - FEN EDGE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Twinning Charter between the Fen Edge Villages is now finally signed and sealed. At the end of April, 40 of us from Cottenham, Rampton, Waterbeach, Landbeach and Willingham travelled to Avrillé, near Angers in the Loire for the final ceremony. The weather was fantastic and we spent our time visiting the sights of the area, having picnics by the Loire, and eating large lunches with our friends. Amongst our group were seven students and two teachers from Cottenham Village College, and representatives from Cottenham, Rampton and Waterbeach Parish Councils.

Everyone had a marvellous time and we have invited the French to visit us next year on the weekend of 8th of May. So if the above sounds like the sort of thing you'd like to be involved with, or if you are new to the village and would like more information, please contact Deborah or John Loveluck on (01954) 252267.

*Parish council continued from  
previous page*

ters, dates of Parish Council meetings will be published in the Diary section. We shall certainly endeavour to make sure that the Annual Parish Meeting is better publicised in these pages. To remind residents, members of the public are welcome to attend all regular Parish Council meetings and listen to what goes on, but are not normally permitted to speak. The Annual Parish Meeting is different, in that it is held specifically to allow residents to have their say on Parish matters.

David Norman

*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

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**Contact Peter Robertson on  
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# USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

|                               |   |              |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Police.....                   | Community Beat Officer.....                                 | 01223 358966 |
|                               | Central Control.....  | 01480 456111 |
| Doctors.....                  | Dr. Julie Gould, 188 High Street.....                       | 250079       |
|                               | Dr. M. Grande, 42 Telegraph Street.....                     | 251180       |
| Community Nurses.....         | Answerphone or between 1.00 - 2.00 pm.....                  | 251071       |
| Cottenham CareCar.....        | Co-ordinator, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm.....                        | 251837       |
| Cottenham Day Centre.....     | Mrs. M. Gilbey, 45 Victory Way.....                         | 251802       |
| Cottenham Helpline.....       | Co-ordinator, Monday/Friday (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....          | 201590       |
|                               | Wednesdays (12.00 - 2.00 pm).....                           | 250937       |
| Salvation Army.....           | Major Colin Hobson, 15 Pelham Close.....                    | 250524       |
| Dentist.....                  | Mr. Faber, Old Telephone Exchange, 40 Margett Street.....   | 251696       |
| Chemist.....                  | R. Macbeth, 222 High Street.....                            | 250556       |
| Chiropodist.....              | J.R. Kain, 13 Pelham Close.....                             | 251143       |
| Osteopath.....                | R.J. Giddings, 12 High Street, Oakington.....               | 01223 237459 |
| Veterinary Surgeon.....       | R. Hughes-Parry, 66 High Street.....                        | 252122       |
| Schools.....                  | Cottenham Village College and Community Office.....         | 288944       |
|                               | County Primary, Lambs Lane.....                             | 250227       |
| Pre-School.....               | Lady birds Pre-School, Recreation Ground.....               | 250891       |
| Out of School Club.....       |   | 201661       |
| Council Offices.....          | South Cambs. District Council.....                          | 01223 443000 |
|                               | Cambridgeshire County Council.....                          | 01223 717111 |
| Parish Council.....           | Clerk - P.J. Sanderson, 37 Broad Lane.....                  | 250836       |
| District Councillor.....      | Rex Collinson, 20 Rampton Road.....                         | 251377       |
|                               | Tim Wotherspoon, 135 High Street.....                       | 252108       |
| County Councillor.....        | Peter Stroude, Home Farm, Longstanton, CB4 5BT.....         | 01954 780008 |
| British Red Cross.....        | Cambridge Office.....                                       | 01223 354434 |
| Citizens Advice.....          | CAB, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.....                   | 01223 353875 |
| Social Services.....          | Histon Team.....  | 01223 264466 |
| NSPCC.....                    | Cottenham Area Team, Peterborough.....                      | 01733 558245 |
| RSPCA.....                    | Area Number, Peterborough.....                              | 0990 555999  |
| Samaritans.....               | Cambridge Centre.....                                       | 01223 364455 |
| Railway Station.....          | Cambridge, Passenger Enquiries.....                         | 0345 484950  |
| Taxi.....                     | Milton Cars.....  | 01223 441616 |
| Library.....                  | Margett Street.....   | 273322       |
| Library Doorstep Service..... | Hilary Firth.....   | 01223 718358 |
| Parish Church.....            | The Rev'd Ian Friars, The Rectory, 6 High Street.....       | 250454       |
| Baptist Church.....           | The Rev'd Paul Lane, The Manse, 3 Goode Close.....          | 252378       |
| Methodist Church.....         | The Rev'd Helen Gardner, Wesley House, 250 High Street..... | 250242       |

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**30 Lyles Road, Cottenham, Tel: 200080**

## PRINTED BY:

**TARGET LITHO, Broad Lane, Cottenham, Tel: 251189 Fax: 252080**

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