

# DOUBLE COTTENHAM TO MAKE A COMEBACK ?

It's Thursday (at least it is while I'm writing this) and so it must be time for a change to the editorial team of the *Cottenham Newsletter*. James Martin and his family have departed for Norway and I'm sure that all of you will join me in wishing them well and in the hope that they will return to Cottenham in the not too distant future. That leaves me holding the fort with assistance from Emily Hooton (who was introduced in the last *Newsletter*). We are joined by Adrian Smith, who tells me that he has recently moved to Cottenham because of the quality of the butcher here! As far as I am aware, none of us has any plans to move away from the village in the short or medium term.

The article on Double Cottenham cheese in the last newsletter has provoked a very lively response. I have had contact with a number of people about Cottenham cheese - I apologise to those I did not fol-

low up - time has been short. Nevertheless, two articles in this issue of the *Newsletter* have their origins in the front page of the last issue. The first is a recipe for Double Cottenham cheese. If one of our readers becomes enthused, we all may be able to taste the genuine article come the first Autumn Produce Show of the new Millennium! However, the second article describes how important the common grazing grasses around Cottenham were to the flavour of the cheese, so it may be a bit difficult to recreate the actual flavour. Still, it could be worth a try.

The millennium debate rumbles on, but a family celebration at the Village College is definitely going ahead. They plan a ceilidh, professional cabaret, children's entertainment, a midnight fireworks display for the warmly clothed and many other delights. Details of how to book are contained inside.

Another event that brings the village together is the Feast Parade. Rev. Friars tells me that the collection raised £1,196.47! This will be used towards a project to develop a water supply in a remote part of Nicaragua. The village has pledged £2,000 to this project over two years. The balance will (hopefully) come from the Feast Parade collection next year. Rev. Friars asked me to extend his thanks to you, the people of Cottenham, for your generosity yet again.

Finally, this is the last edition of the *Newsletter* before the big M strikes. We at the *Newsletter* would like to wish you all a happy, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and a lively celebration for the New Year! We will be back in late January with the next edition of the *Newsletter*, the Millennium bug permitting.

*Eddie Murphy*

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# VILLAGE DIARY

## November

- 19th Cottenham Seniors Club - Slides of Old Cottenham - Part 2, 2:30pm, Cottenham Village College Common Room.  
19th Illustrated talk on Fascinating Fungi. 7:45pm at Cottenham Village College  
20th Cottenham Toy Sale 9:30-11:00am at the Methodist Church Hall  
26th Cottenham Gardening Club. Christmas party and members' garden problems  
27th Fire and Ice sculpture exhibition (outdoor) - from 5:00pm at Wysing Art, near Bourn Village (B1046)

## December

- 3rd Cottenham Seniors Club - Bygone days: discussion of past things, events and folk, 2:30pm, Cottenham Village College Common Room.  
5th Wildlife Trust. Work party at Doghouse Grove, Wilburton. Meet by the reserve entrance in Green lane at 10:00am  
7th Cambridge Osteoporosis Support Group. Speaker to be confirmed. Dry Drayton Village Hall 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
8th Cottenham WI: Franklin Gardens 7:30pm - Brownies Entertain  
10th Cottenham Seniors Club - Carol Concert by Village College Pupils, 2:30pm, Cottenham Village College Common Room.  
14th Parish Council Meeting. Cottenham Village College 7:30pm  
21st Christmas Tree Carol Service on the Village Green at 6:30 pm  
26th Holly Walk - meet at All Saints Church, Cottenham, at 10:30 am

## January

- 12th Cottenham WI: Franklin Gardens 7:30pm - Herbal Hour, Talk by Sheila Weight.  
28th Cottenham Gardening Club. Alpine and medicinal plants of Bhutan - land of the thunder dragon

# SMALL ADS

**FOR SALE** - Three piece suite. Three seater, two seater and recliner chair. 15 Months old but is now too big for bungalow. Offers around £900. Enquiries to **01954 252224**

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# DIARY NOTES

## Cottenham Toy Library -

Thursdays 2.30 - 4.00 - December 2nd & 16th; January 6th & 20th

## At home with a new baby?

Come and meet other parents and babies (up to walking) in a small friendly group. Every Monday 10.00am to noon at 62 Wilkin Walk, Cottenham.

Contact Rosa Hunt on Cottenham 251651

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# DOUBLE COTTENHAM CHEESE - A Recipe

Cottenham was once noted for its cheese called "Double Cottenham". This old recipe comes from an old cheese maker who was acknowledged to be one of the best of her time.

"Take about 9 gallons of new milk. If not so much can be obtained at once, take of the night's milk half the above quantity, that is 4 1/2 gallons, and put it in pans in the ordinary way. In the morning, take another 4 1/2 gallons of the morning milk, and place the pail in a copper of hot water to raise the milk to a sufficient heat so that when mixed with the previous night's milk the two may be of the heat of new milk just brought in.

Skim the cream from the previous night's milk then pour the skimmed milk into a tub holding, say, 12 gallons. Take the cream that has been skimmed off and put it through a strainer. Place the strainer over the tub and pour the heated milk through with the cream so the cream will be carried through and thoroughly mixed with the milk: and all will be of the heat of new milk.

Take a teaspoon or dessert spoon of rennet and thoroughly mix with the

milk in the tub by stirring it well with the cream-stick. Cover for twenty minutes or so, and if the milk has not set add a small quantity of the rennet and stir again.

Take the Three-Legs (a shallow tub, say six inches deep standing on three legs with a cork hole in the bottom at one side), set the leg furthest from the hole on a brick, then lay over the hole the cream strainer or other suitable article to keep the cheese-cloth from stopping it up. Take a cheese-cloth and spread it over the Three-Legs. Before removing the curd from the tub to the Three-Legs, break it gently with the cream-stick or a curd knife. After breaking the curd, pour over it a gallon of hot water heated to 180° F, or as hot as can be borne by the hands, but not boiling. This helps to set the curd and is necessary for making a good cheese. After adding the hot water, let the curd stand for half an hour before putting it into the Three-Legs.

Some of the whey can be removed from the tub before ladling out the curd. After removing a portion or all of it, allow the whey to drain out. To facilitate this draining, break the curd into pieces, take hold of the corners of the cloth and

gently move the curd until it is quite dry. If on compression with the hands no whey is squeezed out, the curd can then lay for an hour or until morning. Then get a cheap piece of unbleached calico (about a square) and place in a hoop and break up the curd gently with the hands and press in, adding about a cup of salt in layers. If a full sized cheese, do not press with a heavy weight at first, as it is likely to press too much of the goodness out. It is the green whey that is wanted out. After pressing a day, turn the cheese out and place it top to bottom for a few hours. Take off the cloth, then wrap up the cheese in a strip of unbleached calico a little wider than the cheese is high, and sew up tightly and put away on a shelf to dry, turning daily, ready for eating October to Christmas.

Don't let the first trial, if not a success, to cause you to give up the idea of making cheese after this recipe, but try, try again. If you succeed, you will be repaid for any trouble you may have taken."

*Mrs E. Chivers (Recipe sent in by Mrs Peggy Ward and delivered to the newsletter by Carol Thaker - Many thanks.)*

## SHAUNS NEWS

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5

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G B Roofing

# THE RISE AND FALL OF COTTENHAM CHEESE

Dr Hill, the correspondent mentioned on the front page of the last Newsletter as being interested to taste Double Cottenham cheese, is a century too late to realise his ambition. It was last made over 100 years ago. Some people may remember a milk and cream cheese that was made on a straw mat, but this was not the famous Cottenham Cheese.

Cheese making must have started in Cottenham a very long time ago. It was mentioned in the Account Rolls of Crowland Manor as far back as 1280. Three hundred years later, cattle keeping was the main object when the 1596 'Agreement' was signed between 12 gentlemen and clergy and 109 others which enabled the householders of Cottenham to hold a Right of Common. Each Common Right allowed the keeping of up to nine milch cows on the 3000 acre commons. Excess milk was made into cheese, a daily task which lasted for a further 250 years, until the Parliamentary Enclosure of 1842. The industry grew during this time. Village inventories after the Civil War, listed cheese presses in almost every house, with two at the rectory and lordship hall.

Two varieties of cheese were made: in the summer, Double Cottenham which was a hard cheese, similar to, but richer than, Stilton; and in Autumn, Single Cottenham, which resembled Camembert.

Charles Vancouver, in his 'General View of Agriculture' in 1794, wrote of it: "The cheese so famous throughout England, by the name of this parish, is made here and in the neighbouring villages: the superiority of which is not to be ascribed to any particular mode in the management of the dairies, but solely to the nature of the herbage on the commons". The nature of the grasses was also stressed by other writers and was clearly of crucial importance.

Gardner's Directory and Gazetteer of 1851 says of the cheese: "Previous to the Enclosure, when it is said that from 1400 to 1500 cows were kept, the parish produced immense quantities of this cheese, but now the land is almost entirely under the plough and the cereal produce from this land is very great".

The decline of cheese making is described further in Kelly's Directory of 1858: "This village is noted for the superior quality of its cheese, which article some years ago was produced here in large quantities, but latterly the extensive pastures have been converted into arable land and consequently the amount now made does not exceed the consumption of the Parish".

The final blow came with the cattle plague of 1865-6. The *Cambridge Chronicle* in 1866 wrote about the cattle plague: "But little more can be said this week than was said last. Cattle are dying every day, but not quite so many as formerly, there being not a score of milch cows left in the village".

To finish, let me give a description of the making of the cheese given by Vancouver. He said that milk of the same milking and of the same feed was put into a vat while still warm. To this was added a gill of brine to four gallons of milk. The brine was made in a special way by filling the stomachs of calves with salt and hanging the bags up for 12 months. About six of these bags would be needed to make two gallons of brine which needed to be strong enough to float a newly laid hens egg. Much depended on the breaking of the curd with the hands, for unless this was done thoroughly, the whey could not be expressed. Any whey which remained in the cheese gave it a fiery taste and left holes like a honeycomb. The curds were then put into tubs and pressed.

Further information about cheese

making in the village is given in my book, Cottenham Commons and Cheese, which was published by the Cottenham Village Society. It is available from Ralph Carpenter in Watson's yard and is priced at £2.

*Olwyn Peacock*

## HEALTHWATCH

by David Bradley

### Working on your heart.

In case we hadn't realised it before, working too hard is not good for you - and that's official. The British Heart Foundation questioned more than 600 working people and says more than one in three believes work is damaging their health, making them gain weight, stop exercising and feel tired and irritable.

More than half said they took less than half an hour for lunch, while a third of women said they didn't have lunch at all. The British Heart Foundation says people can feel better by adopting a healthier lifestyle, which means more fresh fruit and vegetables, more exercise, less alcohol and tobacco, and cutting stress, especially at work. So, at the risk of sounding patronising try not to work so hard and make yourself better.

For more information on how to improve your lifestyle and reduce your risk of heart disease, contact the British Heart Foundation on 0171 486 7908.

David Bradley is a freelance science and medical writer and can be contacted through his Elemental Discoveries web site at [www.sciencebase.com](http://www.sciencebase.com)

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## WATCHING BRIEF

# On the trail of a 19in enclosure

Ever since DataRacks moved into the former Muncey building on the Landbeach Road, Cottenham people have been asking: what the heck is a '19-inch enclosure'? You see those white trucks buzzing about all over the place, announcing that DataRacks is a 'manufacturer of 19in enclosures'.

Of course, having DataRacks as a neighbour has been highly satisfactory for people whose lives are incomplete without a regular supply of enclosures. It's brilliant, they say. Now every time we need a 19-inch enclosure, we can just whiz down to Beach Road and get it sorted in no time at all.

Meanwhile the rest of us have been left wondering what these enclosures might be and whether we ought to have one. What would we enclose in it? Would it go with the leopard skin-effect lounge suite and the new chenille curtains? What if the thing we wanted to enclose measured, say, 22 inches? In common with many Cottenham residents, Watchman has suffered frequent sleepless nights puzzling over such enigmas.

So imagine our relief when the veil was suddenly lifted. There, at the recent Harvest of Industry exhibition, an excellent event staged at the parish church to put the spotlight on local companies, we found ourselves face-to-face with... *a 19-inch enclosure!*

DataRacks was among the 30 or so local businesses featured at the Harvest of Industry event. There was an enormous diversity of different companies' exhibits, from blown-glass laboratory equipment, jewellery and furniture to locally-grown fruit, picture-framing, photography and model-maker Wes West's wonderful six-foot-high leaping salmon.

Naturally, those readers who missed this fascinating exhibition are still muttering between clenched teeth: yes, but what is a 19-inch enclosure? Watchman can now reveal that it is a tall aluminium box on wheels with racks designed to accommodate a stack of computer equipment which evidently always conforms to a 19-inch standard measurement. Phew. No more sleepless nights.

But it's great that, at a time when manufacturing industry is in such alarming decline in Britain, so many businesses here in Cottenham are still actually making things rather than 'providing services'. Indeed, Watchman is glad to note that business is so good for DataRacks that they're having to extend the factory.

### A night to remember

You could spend a good few thousand quid on celebrating New Millennium's Eve. Perhaps you're planning to take yourself off to Fiji or some other exotic destination on the International Date Line in order to be among the first mortals to witness the dawn of the third millennium. Or maybe something a little more modest, like a night out at the Dorchester.

But many people are now saying they'd rather see in the new era with friends and family, in their own town or village. No problems with having to drive home. No need for a second mortgage to pay a babysitter. No chance of a millennium bug plunging your aircraft into the Pacific. No traffic jams to contend with, or crowds of rowdy revellers all competing with you to get on the last bus or train home.

Small wonder that there's already pressure on ticket sales for the Community Association's big family celebration at the Village College. With fireworks, children's entertainment and a special cabaret planned, in addition to a night's dancing to the New Century Ceilidh Band, it looks like being quite a family party.

In fact, Watchman wouldn't be a bit surprised if the Community Association started getting ticket enquiries from residents of Fiji, Western Samoa or the Gilbert Islands.

### Welcome home Shaun and Kaajal

Isn't it good to have smiling faces once again at Shaun's in the High Street? There's been a distinct air of grumpiness about the shop since Shaun and Kaajal sold up and went off to sample life in America.

But the USA didn't work out for the couple, so now they've returned to Cottenham and bought the business back. With the shopfront announcing that 'Shaun is back' in foot-high letters, once again we can expect a cheery welcome and feel that our custom is actually valued.

Good to have you back, Shaun and Kaajal.

Watchman

## WHIST

### Ladies Club WHIST DRIVE

Every Tuesday 7.30 pm at  
Stevens Close Community Room

## SMASHING...

Seen in Eastbourne Shop:

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Submitted by G T Young

*[Any contributions like this to lighten the gloom of winter gratefully received, Eds]*

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# COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has had the opportunity to review the County Council's plans for the improvement works to be carried out at the Primary School in Lambs Lane. It is fair to say that the overall reaction was one of disappointment. Most of us had expected to see an expansion of the school premises, whereas what is actually planned is essentially new permanent buildings to replace the existing temporary classrooms - in our view these would eventually have to be replaced anyway. Apparently the statisticians have calculated that the new housing in the village is not going to increase the school population sufficiently to warrant significant enlargement of the premises. Although the school will no doubt welcome its new buildings, we might have hoped that the considerable sums paid by the developers under the Section 106 agreement might have yielded some extra benefits - like perhaps improved access to alleviate the horrendous traffic situation.

Bovis Homes have submitted a planning application in respect of "phase 3" of the Broad Lane development. The proposal for a pedestrian access to the site via Stevens Close has aroused concern amongst local residents. We have learned that this aspect of the proposal will not be approved.

Another planning application was to replace the existing drill tower at the Fire Station with a much higher (18.5m or 60ft!) structure carrying an array of telecommunications aerials. (The application was from a private company, not the Fire Brigade.) The Council objected to the proposal on grounds of its incongruous nature and the safety fears associated with these microwave towers. As it turns out, South Cambs. have rejected the proposal, but what also concerned us was the very small number of residents who were notified of the application. Having raised this matter with the Planning Department, we are advised that the statutory requirement is to notify only immediate neighbours and not necessarily others who might be affected. This structure would have been visible from half the village! Such applications are also notified by means of press notices and the notices displayed at the site itself - usually attached to a fence or telegraph pole. So the lesson is - read these notices, they may affect YOU even if you don't live next door!

This will be the last edition of the Newsletter before Christmas. The ever-popular Carol Service at the Christmas Tree on the Village Green will begin at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 21st December, by which time the new Christmas lights,

now extending right round the Green, should be commissioned. The Cottenham Brass and the Primary School Singers will be in attendance, led by Parish Councillor Colin Watson, who has been hauled out of (musical) retirement to be reinstated as Bandmaster. Colin would like to hear from any aspiring instrumentalists to swell the ranks of our excellent Brass Band.

You will be aware by now that the Council intends to distribute commemorative mugs to the younger children of the village as a token to mark the Millennium. These have been specially commissioned from the pottery at Wilburton, and carry the village sign as a motif. Additional mugs can be purchased for older children (or adults!). A water jug, a plate and a pint mug are other items available for purchase. By kind permission of Mr Macbeth, the full range is on display at the Chemist's, and also at no. 12 Lambs Lane. Orders can be placed with Robert Clarke (Tel 250443) or Peter Sanderson (Tel 250836).

The Parish Council would like to take this somewhat early opportunity of wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and good fortune in the next Millennium.

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# CONFESSIONS OF AN EX-TAXI DRIVER

I have just got back from a journey. It wasn't very far away, but I thought I would go by train. My new life means that I do not push myself very much, in fact I hardly push myself at all, in fact I could do with a push! Well, I thought of all the plusses of going by rail: I could make sandwiches and eat them en-route, I could eat any other bits of my rather ample stow of edibles too, I could even do my puzzles. Thus, my plan was formed.

I don't know whether I have aged suddenly, only I felt that my suitcase was too heavy, even though it was only a World War II imitation leather evacuee-style weekend-sized case. I used to pick up suitcases and trunks that were so heavy I used to ask who was in there! I got to the London Underground and had luggage in both hands, so I didn't have a hand free to find my ticket. The queues behind parted and rejoined in front of me. I eventually got onto the inter-city train and within a few minutes of setting off my head started to nod. I fell asleep. It was a lovely, deep, consoling sleep, and it was pleasant not to have to fight it as one does when

behind the wheel. I remembered years ago when on holiday in England with my mother, she would say to my brother and I, "Don't let me fall asleep with my mouth open!". My brother and I were horrible and used to wake her up all the time to make her think that she had done the terrible thing! What vile children we were. There I was on the train on my own and there was no one to wake me up if necessary. I was so fast asleep that my head slumped over into the aisle. In my unconscious state, I became aware of a small child standing there, unable to get past and too shy to ask me to move. I woke up and everyone just sat there staring po-faced. There must be something about the movement of those inter-city trains that makes it impossible to stay awake on them.

I went to my uncle's funeral the next day. I felt a great relief that he had been taken, because he had suffered so long and so terribly from Alzheimer's disease. I first remembered him thirty years ago, when he was a fit and very strong man. When I was a child, I was out swim-

ming in the sea and the current started to pull me out away from the shore. I was more used to swimming in the sea back in Malta, where there are no tides, so I was not used to the sea pulling me in either direction. I always thought of myself as a strong swimmer, so I was not afraid. I decided to swim back to the shore and thrashed about as fast as I could. To my horror, the little dot on the beach that was my mother kept getting smaller, even though I was swimming to the shore as fast as I could. I was terrified that I was going to drown, because I could not swim any harder. I screamed out loud, something I had never done before. With gigantic waves crashing around me, no one on land could hear. It was terrifying and I thought I'd had it. Suddenly, Uncle Gordon appeared, and with a few strong tugs, pulled me towards the shore. I know that he saved my life, even though I can only have been about 8 years old, probably younger. That was what I remembered about him on the day of his funeral.

*Moyra Borg*

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# A Partner in the Dance of Fate

- By Walter James.

Sunday, 3rd of September, 1939 arrived. It was a lovely, sunny and warm day. There were no church parades, they had been abolished some time before; those who wished to go to church did so on their own.

At 11 o'clock we all gathered around the radio in the barrack room to listen to Mr Chamberlain's speech. His measured and musically modulated voice, with its polite, reserved and civilised tones, stated succinctly, and almost reverentially, that we were now at war with Germany. There were a few moments of silence and then, without comment, we all drifted away to our own spaces. Soon the silence was shattered by the usual wry and noisy quips that such momentous occasions bring forth, and within minutes everyone was chattering away quite happily, almost as if it were a cricket score that had been announced. (Young men, particularly soldiers, have an urgency for life and must get on with it).

Someone switched the radio to something more lively, probably to Radio Luxembourg, the 'pop' station of that day, and almost on cue, two of the bandsmen started dancing together. One pretended to be the 'Colonel', and the other the 'Colonel's Lady' - the 'Colonel' was small and dapper with a neat 'Ronald Colman' moustache; his 'Lady' was much taller. Their impression was grotesquely lifelike, the dialogue funny; their gyrations over the wax-polished floor, in and around the beds, provoking gales of laughter despite this being their regularly presented 'party piece'.

For some reason, the scene and the atmosphere etched itself on my mind. Possibly, it was the juxtaposition of events - the serious followed by the frivolous, or perhaps it was simply because I had been away from barrack life and its humour for the past year; consequently it had a certain freshness and sharpness about it. Whatever the reason, while I was enjoying the fun and joining in the laughter, I felt at the same time that this was all taking place outside of myself, almost as if it were happening elsewhere, and that I was merely a distant spectator.

I saw Sidney and Tubby, who was no longer 'Tubby', (his nickname had been acquired several years before, on enlistment) doing their Waltz-Foxtrot-Tango routine. I saw the row of army beds, the great circle of amused faces, and noted, with an almost superficial detachment, that Sydney was in reality a superb ball-room dancer, although he pretended to

dance (as many officers did in those days) - as if he had two left legs, both wooden. Tubby, for all his meek diffidence as a person and his average competence as an instrumentalist, had a superb sense of parody, all the more surprising because it was so unexpected. They always performed their 'act' spontaneously: they gravitated together in some chance fashion at the exact moment the right music was being relayed, and before we knew it (and probably before they knew it) they were dancing - and it was the Regimental ball!

They performed their act as much to indulge themselves as to entertain us: it gave them an opportunity to exercise a talent that normally had to remain dormant and submerged. I had seen their performance many times previously, but this occasion appeared to have a special significance beyond that of its occurrence.

The following May we were involved in the Battle for France. The whole battalion was on the line of march carrying out one of the many defensive sideways and backwards steps of the retreat that would end at Dunkirk. We were marching in staggered formation along both sides of a road, built on an embankment through a long valley, which was being shelled by a long-range gun aided by a spotter plane. Some of the shells would land short and send small clods of earth exploding upwards; others would drop on the far side of the embankment; the odd one would land on the road itself. One of these wounded Sydney.

As the shells crashed down, the column of troops would bend down and rush forward as if to dive for cover - but there was no cover; yet it was hard to resist the temptation to rush forward and break the extended formation which alone would keep casualties to a minimum. One of our company commanders, a World War I veteran, walked up and down the road, swinging his walking stick, as if he was out on a Sunday stroll, encouraging the troops more by his seemingly carefree attitude than by anything he said. As a platoon sergeant leading his men, I tried

in a small way to emulate his example. I kept a regular pace with what I hoped was an unflinching manner and an unworried face, although as I heard the 'crump' of shells exploding around me, my stomach would shift into over-drive.

It was a long march, but the flow of adrenaline that accompanied our fear spurred us on, until eventually, we were safely out of range of the guns and the light began to fade. A vivid memory of this march was of an ambulance, crowded with wounded soldiers, being driven past us in the centre of the road just as a shell landed about thirty yards in front of it. The wounded, all covered with blood soaked bandages, could be seen in their panic trying to get out of the ambulance, but the door was fastened shut. The driver ignored all this. He just hooted his horn at the troops forward of his vehicle and drove on. I didn't envy him his job. I preferred to take my chance in the line of march.

The following November found me at the Regimental Training Centre, and those of us who were musicians in the Regimental Dance Band were playing in the Town Hall of the local city for a Tea Dance in aid of war charities. During one of the dances, I spotted a familiar face at the side of the dance floor: it was Sydney making his way towards the stage where the band was playing. He stood there, watched and listened, and later sat in and played the trumpet. He was as spruce as ever, immaculately dressed, his 'Ronald Colman' moustache neatly trimmed, and managing his artificial leg so well it was difficult to believe a shell had taken his real leg off on that long march in France, the previous May.

During the rest in a chorus of one of the dance numbers, I turned to him and saw that he was watching, with an appreciative eye, the dancers circling and swirling around the dance floor below us. As I looked down, following his gaze, I saw superimposed on the swaying figures, the barrack room in Plymouth, and there were Sydney and Tubby performing their 'Officers' Ball' routine as they did on that Sunday morning when war was declared.

VINDIS ADVERT SUPPLIED

# Poetry Corner

## Remembering

Remembrance Day, we turn a page  
Back to those gone, They do not age  
Like we, their dear ones - family - kin,  
And comrades welded in the din  
Of war, who mourn, not just  
Remembrance Day.

Young They were, and strong and tall,  
And others - not so young, but all  
Gave what They had, their strength, their  
skill,  
Their lives, and memory stirs us still  
To mourn them this Remembrance Day.

We meet once more, though some aren't  
here  
Who spoke, and clasped our hands last  
year,  
They too will stay on in the mind  
Of those they loved, now left behind  
To mourn Them, this Remembrance Day.

Is it enough then that we rise,  
Recalling Them in our minds' eyes  
Just once each year? - save but the few  
Who miss Them, every day anew,  
More deeply each Remembrance Day.

Their children, what inherit they?  
A failing Britain, tired and grey?  
Dear Lord forbid; where is our pride  
In nationhood? For which They died,  
Look round you this Remembrance Day.

This "Band of Brothers", "Happy Breed"  
Our great Bard named us - now we need  
Again, their will to win, - their zeal  
For Britain's sake, its wounds to heal,  
Take heart on this Remembrance Day.

Let's make this land a better place,  
For all, unheeding creed or race,  
Share what we have, we did before,  
And won - an awful, bloody war,  
What say you - this Remembrance Day ?

*Sydney Dinsdale*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Image of Anger

The image of anger is cast through the  
night  
And the scent comes to greet me, to set  
me in flight  
With cloak and with dagger, I search for  
the fear

My body is restless, I know I am near  
To blood-sucking freedom and incessant  
terror

The feeling is pure and death is forever

Mouth twitching, it longs for the flesh  
Body burning, nothing but the best  
Lips trembling, in anticipation  
Body turning, in perfect elation

The dead strewn around me I make for  
my lair  
Their sightless eyes watch me, their skin  
gasps for air  
On high hidden planes where I wallow in  
bliss  
My mind drifting on to the next soothing  
kiss

Then sleep comes upon me, I dream of  
tomorrow  
Of new souls to capture and more power  
to follow

*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!

# NAVAL TRIVIA

When ships were built with purpose fitted laundry machines in the earlier years of this century they were run by locally enlisted operators. Many of the early operators spoke Hindi, the Hindi word for washing is dhobey, thus laundrymen were known as 'Dhobey wallahs'. Today, washing powder is known as 'Dhobey dust'.

*Old Salt*

## BRITISH LEGION - WOMEN'S SECTION

It is with deep regret that we have to inform the village that the WOMEN'S SECTION of the British Legion has had to close through age and lack of support. The men's section will continue and will welcome men or women who are interested in joining the British Legion. Any one of the following Cottenham numbers can be used to get in touch: 251848, 203427, or 250876.

*Brenda Leach (ex WS Secretary)*

## ARTICLES, DATES AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

E-mail, PC floppy disk and paper submissions are all welcome. PC floppy disks will be returned to contributors.....eventually! Please contact the Editors if you have any questions. Dates of events to be advertised in the next issue (No. 55) should span the last week of January and the months of February and March.

JOHN BURRELL GARDENING SERVICES, COPY SUPPLIED

## TREES OF LIGHT

In deep winter it may seem to us that all nature is either dead or asleep. However, some plants and trees do remain with us through the coldest months. They brighten the countryside, inspire many a superstition and tradition, and stay true to their name - 'ever-green'.

The Yew tree, common to many churchyards and undisturbed places, can live for over 1,000 years and many were mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1085. Thus the Yew has a reputation for immortality which has made it a symbol for life after death. This explains the ancient custom of putting sprigs of yew into the shrouds and graves of those being buried. Which in turn may explain why there are so many stories of Yews growing out of lover's graves.

The Yew is seen as a tree of light, its green foliage in the dead of winter showing that life will go on. To highlight this, all evergreens were traditionally dressed with shiny objects at Yuletide to call the light of the sun back in the coming year. This tradition we of course still practice, lighting up our homes and overcast skies with our Christmas trees.

The holly tree is also a tree of light. It has shiny leaves and bright berries, and is traditionally a plant of good omen. According to legend, it is particularly lucky for a man to carry a leaf or berry, as he will then become quickly attractive to women.

On the higher branches of holly trees, the leaves are a lot less prickly as they are out of the reach of animals. There is an old country saying that if the smoother holly is brought into the house first at Yuletide, than the woman shall rule the house for the coming year, if prickly, then it shall be the man. (It would be interesting to see if there was an increase in incidents of women falling off ladders at this time.)

*The Wildlife Trusts*

## COTTENHAM VILLAGE DESIGN GROUP

The Design Group will be holding a Christmas meeting on Thursday 2nd December at 7.30 p.m. in the Lecture Room at the Village College. There will be an informal talk about the group's visit to Poundbury in Dorset earlier in the year, illustrated with slides and photographs. As we reported in the August edition of the newsletter, the village was built with the patronage of Prince

Charles. Its imaginative design, incorporating a mix of styles and materials in the modern context, is an interesting example of how a new development can be assimilated into the environment.

If you are interested in the work of the Design Group please come and join us. Wine and refreshments will be available.

## MILLENNIUM PARTY AT CVC

### THE FEN EDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

is proud to present its 14th family New Year's Eve Party  
8.p.m - 1.am Ticket prices Adult £10.00 Concession £5.00  
Family ticket £25.00.

*Come and celebrate the New Millennium with us!!!*  
We aim to offer something for everyone regardless of their age.

This year's festivities will include  
**a CEILIDH led by the "Champion Dance Band",**  
**PROFESSIONAL CABARET,**  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT,**  
**MIDNIGHT FIREWORKS DISPLAY**  
**- and lots more.**

For more information and tickets, please contact  
**the Community Office at Cottenham Village College - 01954 288944**

## SERVICES AT COTTENHAM PARISH CHURCH IN DECEMBER 1999 AND JANUARY 2000

<b>12th December</b>	4.00pm Christingle Service
<b>19th December</b>	7.00pm Short Family Carol Service, at the Village College
<b>24th December</b>	3.00pm Crib Service 5.00pm Carol Service (by candlelight) 11.30pm Midnight Mass
<b>Christmas Day</b>	8.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Christmas Day Eucharist
<b>26th December</b>	10.30am Parish Communion
<b>31st December</b>	11.30pm Time for quiet reflection on the Eve of the Millennium (by candlelight.) 11.50pm We gather under the tower as the Church Bellingers ring out the old Millennium, ending with the 12 strikes - the last being midnight
<b>2000</b>	12.00 Midnight The new Millennium is rung in
<b>1st January</b>	11.45am Short service for the new Millennium, with the bells joining in the nation wide ring at 12.00 noon; followed by sherry and soft drinks
<b>2nd January</b>	10.30am Parish Communion 3.00pm Combined Village Service for the first Sunday of the new Millennium at the Baptist Church
<b>9th January</b>	10.30am Parish Communion-Celebrant and Preacher: The Bishop of Huntingdon. During the service the Bishop will lay the Commemorative Stone and dedicate the new hall to the glory and service of God, followed by a Parish Lunch.

# P A D S

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# A COTTENHAM ARTIST

I have been living in Cottenham for the past three years and have been running workshops and art classes for Cottenham Village College. I have been very impressed with the way the College manages to do so much for the Village, which I feel is in no small way due to the dynamism of Jenny Kay. Just when you're not expecting it she phones up with an idea - perhaps 9pm on a Sunday night!

I have been working as an artist for twenty years now and find the whole experience very challenging not least because the art world is so ruthless. Furthermore, media stories constantly ring the death knell for painting and question the relevance of figurative artists in the modern world. Quietly in the background there are a very large number of isolated individuals who, against the odds, have been working in the face of adversity, without public grants or Arts Council funding, in order to pursue their drive to create.

Whether as a society we want such people to survive is up to us. I exhibit up and down the country, in Scotland and abroad and the story is the same wherever I go: the creative person is struggling to make ends meet. If, however, the artist were to give in to economic pressures and "go back to work",

then are we, as a society, better off?

This gets me to the point of my story - is there anybody out there who may have a suitable space for a painter, and/or other artists to work as there are a number of us in Cambridge who are losing our studios in January 2000. The sort of space needed is something weatherproof and secure where perhaps improvements could be made to suit e.g. light/heat, in lieu of initial rent. The rent I pay at the moment is around £80 per month and that is for a solid brick-built building with water supply, good light and heating and access for a car.

Please contact Peter Graham if you have any ideas on 01954 250848, or if you would like to know more about art classes please ring Cottenham Village College on 01954 288944.

## Holly Walk

As usual, there will be a walk on Boxing Day morning, to refresh yourself with a fenland blow before the next round of festivities. The complete route is about four miles, but families with children can take a shorter route. Meet at All Saints Church, Cottenham, at 10:30 a.m.

# JESUS' 2000TH BIRTHDAY

Do you want somewhere for your 5 to 11-year-olds to go to for a couple of hours on Saturday 18th December 1999? Well, send them along to the Village College, where Churches Together will be holding a workshop from 10am until 12 noon.

There will be lots to do, including drama, music, craft and plenty more. The children will be able to perform their drama and music on Sunday at our Churches Together Carol Service, to be held at the Village College on Sunday 19th December 1999 at 7pm.

## COTTENHAM FOOTPATHS

For several months of the year the footpaths become overgrown with vegetation, making walking difficult. But at this time of year it is a pleasure to walk the paths. There are over 15 miles of footpath in Cottenham parish, and these link up with paths in other parishes, making plenty of possibilities for an enjoyable winter walk.

An attractive leaflet has been produced by the Footpath Group and is available at the Library, Post Office and Village College.

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# OLD COTTENHAM - BOYHOOD MEMORIES

## JASPER KAY'S BIRD REPORT

The Rev. L. S. Maurice came to Cottenham in 1938. In his younger days, he studied at Oxford and had been a fine sportsman, on occasions opening the batting for Northamptonshire. A man of comfortable wealth, he could afford the up-keep of the Old Rectory. He even brought his own Gardner with him, Mr Harold Chamberlain who lived with his family in Denmark Road. He too was a keen sportsman, keeping wicket for Cottenham Cricket Club. Mr Chamberlain kept the rectory gardens

in fine order, and the afternoon Sunday School "treats", as the Rev. Maurice called them, were enjoyable occasions.

The Rev. Maurice was a tall dark-haired man who drove a maroon coloured Riley car with cream spoked wheels. He was equally at home, however, riding a tall upright bicycle with a basket at the front, wearing a rather shabby raincoat and a grey trilby with a black band. In the late 1930's he commanded large congregations at Evensong. They sang with great enthusiasm, especially one lady who had a very strong voice, which was slightly off-key and tended to trail behind the rest. This made her somewhat detectable, because as the Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis, or an "Ancient and Modern" unfolded, this lady could still be heard in full glorious song. A regular churchgoer and a friendly lady - old church members will remember her as Miss Lil Porter.

*Michael Taylor*

Birds of prey are some of our most exciting birds. The most easily recognised is the kestrel perched on a telegraph pole or high in a tree, or hovering over fields looking for small mammals. In cities, where there are few mammals, kestrels will often eat birds. Sparrowhawks are less easy to spot. They fly fast, dipping over hedges and through trees in pursuit of small birds. Both of these birds are fairly common here.

Recently some less common birds of prey have been seen. At the bottom of Broad Lane near Archie's way, a pair of hobbies had a nest and produced a young bird. They are summer visitors and had left the area by mid-September. On September 1st, three red kites were seen over Smithy Fen and one of them again a few days later. Red kites are slowly being reintroduced into Britain, first in Wales and more recently in the Chilterns and the Midlands. It is exciting to realise that they are occasionally drifting into East Anglia.

Other unusual visiting birds of prey have been a buzzard, which crashed into a bush in Ivatt Street and then managed to fly away; a merlin seen on Smithy Fen and a probable goshawk also seen on Smithy Fen in early October. This latter bird may have escaped from captivity. A short-eared owl has also been seen near the river.

Of equal interest has been the gradual movement of birds according to the seasons. House martins were still busy at their nest at the Village College on September 17th, but I saw swallows and house martins for the last time on September 30th.

Golden plovers, a whinchat and a wheatear have all been seen. Mistle thrushes are in noisy flocks, but in mid-October I am waiting to see the first fieldfares of the winter.

*Jasper Kay.*

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# DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWS

**LOCAL SUCCESS IN CONSERVATION AWARDS:** Two pieces of conservation work in Cottenham - Victorian-style railings at 157, High Street and re-roofing at the Old Rectory using a combination of existing tiles and new Cambridgeshire peg tiles - were recently shortlisted for the Council's biennial Conservation Awards, with the work at the Old Rectory scooping one of the prizes. The shortlist is drawn up from conservation schemes throughout South Cambridgeshire and to be included on the shortlist is itself an indication of a very high standard of work. Congratulations to both owners and to all those involved in both projects.

Conservation is a very important aspect of what the Council does and conservation staff are always happy to advise owners of older buildings or residents considering any form of conservation work. Grants are also often available. For more information contact the Conservation Manager at South Cambridgeshire Hall, 9-11, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1PB, Tel. 01223 443180, or your District Councillor.

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE REVISED LOCAL PLAN:** One of the

jobs of District Councils is to draw up a local plan which shows where development is to be allowed in the District in future years. South Cambridgeshire has been revising its local plan and has indicated that Cottenham should not take any further development outside its existing boundaries, including the two large sites at Broad Lane and Beach Road which are currently being developed for housing, for the foreseeable future.

A number of objections to the plan have been put in seeking to develop additional sites in Cottenham but the Council has rejected all of these. Objectors can now, if they wish, take their proposals to a Public Inquiry at which an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will finally decide whether any further development will be allowed. The Inquiry, which will be held at South Cambridgeshire Hall, is scheduled to begin on 13th June 2000 and is expected to last for up to 25 weeks.

**SUCCESS FOR DATA RACKS:** Data Racks has been given planning permission to extend its Beach Road factory by building an additional bay at the rear. The company, which employs a number of local people and makes cabinets to house commercial and office computers, will

now be able to stay in Cottenham.

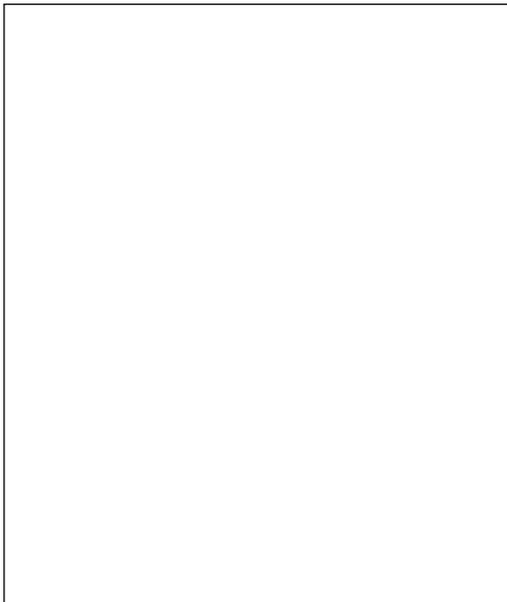
**NEW WOODLAND:** Cambridgeshire County Council's County Farms Department has decided to plant a new woodland on land bordering the drainage ditch at the bottom of Rampton Hill and on the north side of the Cottenham-Rampton Road. County Farms say that they intend to continue to let the land between the woodland and the edge of Cottenham for farming for the foreseeable future, but they have indicated that, in the long term, they may wish to consider whether there could be alternative uses for the land.

**BEST WISHES FOR THE MILLENNIUM** to all Cottenham residents, and many thanks for all the help and support I have received in endeavouring to represent Cottenham as your councillor. I am always happy to try and help residents with problems relating to the Council or other services. Just contact me at home - 20, Rampton Road, Cottenham, (Tel. 251377) - or come to my surgery between 5.30 and 6.30 p.m. on the third Friday of each month (except August) in the Communal Room at Franklin Gardens.

*Rex Collinson, District Councillor*

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# SECOND SUCCESSIVE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR COTTENHAM CRICKET CLUB

Cottenham Cricket Club's first team followed up its 1997/98 championship season by again topping their Division (2N) this summer. This second successive promotion as champions means that Cottenham will play in Division 1N next season, a fine achievement by the club, and particularly as, under the new League system, only one club can gain promotion from Division 2.

Cottenham topped a Division containing three Vardy League and two Senior League second XIs, demonstrating just how much the team has progressed in terms of both experience and confidence over the last three years. In addition, and for the first time, the club won the annual Willingham 6-a-side charity tournament in July, beating Longstanton Grasshoppers in the final.

The club's second XI had a more difficult summer, mainly because of problems in regularly fielding a settled side. However, it finished the season with a good run, including three straight victories which helped to boost confidence and move the club up the league.

Despite the excellent progress the club has made in recent years, we still need

more players to join us in our push to raise the profile of Cottenham cricket. Cottenham is a large and growing village, and we are keen to tap into what must be an expanding pool of local cricketers, both young and not so young. The village deserves and needs a thriving cricket club, not just for the current generation of cricketers but, perhaps even more importantly, for future ones as well.

The club has been running junior teams at U-11 and U-13 levels this summer, and these youngsters are our future lifeblood. Too often in the past, promising young players have drifted away to other clubs in and around the city, but we want to emphasize to both parents and youngsters that there is now a successful and dynamic club on their doorstep which really wants and needs their support. We are currently working hard on the square at Lambs Lane recreation ground, which has significantly improved over the last couple of years and we are also taking initiatives to improve our practice facilities in the village.

So, to any cricketers, or parents of young cricketers, living in the village

and not currently involved with our club (and who might like the convenience of playing on their doorstep for a change!), we want to say please get in touch with us to find out more about our plans for next season. Just ring our Secretary, Mick Dean, on (01954) 250037 - we will be delighted to hear from you and you can be assured of a really warm welcome at Cottenham Cricket Club.

*David Partridge (Vice-Chairman)*

## METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Methodist Church Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday, 4th December 1999 from 10am to 2pm. There will be various stalls, including cakes, crafts, toys, etc. Coffee and lunches will also be served. For the younger ones - or the young at heart if they wish - there will be Santa in his Grotto. Please come along and have an enjoyable time with us.

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

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## FEN REEVES COMMUNITY WOODLAND UPDATE

The Fen Reeves woodland committee will be holding the annual Christmas tree collection. Last year's event proved to be the most popular so far, with the trailers getting close to capacity. This Christmas, trailers will be located at the Green and at the Old Pond (at the corner of Broad Lane and the High Street) from 9am to 2pm on Sunday January 9 2000. Please bring only trees (no pots and plastic bags please).

Thanks to Ken Hewitt of Eastern Landscapes for shredding the trees last Christmas. Thanks also to Cottenham Young Farmers for their help with spreading the chippings, clearing and putting extra guards around the trees.

The replacement sign by Ruth Gillitson (former Cottenham Village College student) was positioned near the main entrance earlier this year.

We would like to pass on our thanks to PI Research Motor Sport, Brookfields Centre, who have kindly sponsored a new bench seat in the woodland. If any business or individual feels that they could help by providing sponsorship, equipment, or in some other way then please contact our Chairman Andrew Snelson on 01954 200138.

In the New Year we are hoping to set up a website for the woodland group. Remember, it's your community wood, so please take the time to visit and enjoy it.

### AU-PAIR

The daughter of family friends is seeking a position as au-pair or similar. She is a Danish student aged 18 years looking for a post in July 2000. She is a non-smoker, likes children and animals and holds a current Danish driving licence.

If interested to know more please contact Wendy Bacon on Cottenham 250393

### LETTERS to the Editors

World's Largest Coffee Morning

Dear Sirs,

The organizers at Franklin Gardens Community Centre would like to thank everyone for donations, gifts and cakes. The sum raised was £270. Many thanks

R&P Eke  
5 Franklin Gardens

## REQUIRED - HOST FAMILIES FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS.

For many years, families in Cottenham and other local villages have been receiving foreign students into their homes for short-stay visits to England. We take care of their needs by providing a bed and meals during their stay in this country, whilst giving them an insight into the English way of life.

All of the families who take part in these programmes, which normally last for a few days on each visit, have reported back about the enjoyment and satisfaction they have had by taking part in the scheme. Many long lasting friendships have come about as a result of having students in this way. We have visitors of all nationalities throughout the year, and have enjoyed in particular the parties from Japan, as these youngsters are a pleasure to have in our homes.

Early indications suggest that schools and organisations in many different countries that normally take their children on short breaks want to visit England during 2000, with Cambridge and nearby villages being particularly popular venues.

As well as Cambridge itself, villages currently involved in the scheme are: Cottenham, Histon & Impington, Willingham, Over, Bar Hill and Fulbourn. Consideration could be given to interested parties from other nearby villages.

If you have spare room(s) with beds, and would like to have students in this way, and earn yourself a little extra pocket money, then we would like to hear from you. Just phone June or Vic on 01954 - 250383 so that we can give you more details about the scheme and send you an application form.

Vic Pinner

*Deadline*

FOR NEXT ISSUE  
**24th DECEMBER**

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.

## OUR 'BLEEPING CAT'

I always enjoy reading Jasper's wild bird news in the *Cottenham Newsletter*. My own knowledge of birds is very limited; thus I often ask him questions when we meet at the Community swimming pool. Unfortunately, my husband and I soon started to identify too many types of birds, when one of our rescued cats suddenly discovered it could catch birds (sadly, to play with). This cat was bringing in two or three birds a day; we were devastated.

I remembered a newspaper article in spring, about an Ornithologist in Thetford Forest and a cat collar with a bleeping device to warn birds. With the help of the Norwich branch of the RSPB we tracked it down, and duly purchased said collar at £18. We agreed to take part in a survey for the company.

Initially, good news. The birds soon realized that the bleeping came from a cat (a bit like Captain Hook's crocodile). Then the cat learned to hide out of hearing distance from the birds: sadly, more dead birds.

After a 'think', we added three small jingle bells to the collar, so that now she bleeps every seven seconds and jingles. Success: no more dead birds. We switch off the bleep when the cats are indoors at night. Neighbours have remarked on the bleeping cat (she is very friendly), and the bleeping does not appear to distress her in any way.

I have written this at Jasper's request, as he thought readers may be as interested as he was. If anyone is interested in the collar, I will gladly supply more information.

Mrs Wendy Bacon  
10 Millfield  
Cottenham CB4 8RE

### ADVERTISING RATES

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	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.....	Ladybirds 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
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Social Services.....	Histon Team.....	01223 264466
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RSPCA.....	Area Number, Peterborough.....	0990 555999
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Taxi.....	Milton Cars.....	01223 441616
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Library Doorstep Service.....	Hilary Firth.....	01223 718358
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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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