

FAREWELL CLEMENTS?

Sad news indeed has reached me just before Christmas – Clements, our most excellent hardware shop, is to close. Indeed, there is a planning application underway to demolish the shop and replace it with a residential dwelling. These plans do not extend to the workshop behind the shop, which I believe will continue.

The convenience of having Clements in the village cannot be overstated. Being able to nip along the High Street to collect the little things necessary to finish the job is a convenience and a pleasure. Friendly greetings and helpful advice are always dispensed liberally from behind the counter there.

However, all is not lost. If current plans come to fruition, Clements will close at the end of March this year. But I have it on good authority that Clements intends to retain a retail presence in the village and we can expect the hardware shop to be trading again by the coming winter. Watch this space!

This raises a more general issue about the sustainability of local businesses. One of the main arguments of those supporting the expansion of Cottenham over recent years was that the influx of new households would secure the future of local businesses. People involved in some local businesses tell me that they have not seen an increase in business com-

mensurate with the growth in the village and some say that business has declined despite the expansion.

“Use them or lose them” is a theme which has appeared in the *Newsletter* in the past with regard to local businesses. This is even more true now with developments such as the huge Tesco Extra at Bar Hill. It is so convenient to buy everything you need in such a place. However, if all the local businesses close, then you will have no choice but to go there. Do you really fancy the idea of having to drive to Bar Hill to get a pint of milk, a newspaper or sweets for the kids?

But leaving aside the convenience aspect, if you don't shop in the village, you don't know what you're missing. Some of the small businesses here (and not all of them advertisers in the *Newsletter* either!) provide goods and services of the highest quality at competitive prices and in a friendly manner which giants cannot match. They are well worth a try – you will find yourself going back for more.

Eddie Murphy



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VILLAGE DIARY

January

- 25th Cottenham Seniors Club, Graffam Water History by Michael Dean, Lecture room Village College 2:30pm
25th Cottenham Gardeners Club, New Year Party, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm
26th Fen Edge Footpathers, Morning Walk with Soup, 85 High Street, 9:15am (Please phone Jasper on 250485 if you intend to participate)

February

- 2nd Salvation Army, Jumble sale, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am – 11:30am
7th Cottenham Toy Library, Regular session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15 – 4:15pm
7th Salvation Army, Coffee morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
8th Cottenham Seniors Club, The joys and hazards of rambling by Mr John Capes, Lecture Room Village College 2:30pm
8th Cottenham Village Society, Mrs Liz Milway: "A Hero in the Closet", William Kekwik, Australian explorer, Cottenham Primary School, 7:45pm
13th A look at cookery books from the 18th century onwards by Fiona Lucraft, Franklin Gardens Community Centre, 7:30pm
15th Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, Cottenham Area Group, Illustrated talk 'Whale and Dolphin Watching Close to Home' by Gareth Rondel, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm.
19th Cottenham Parish Council meeting, Cottenham Village College, 7:30pm
21st Salvation Army, Coffee morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
22nd Cottenham Gardeners Club, AGM and Members' gardening questions, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm
21st Cottenham Toy Library, Regular session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm
22–24 Fen Edge Community Association, Textile Focus, Village College

March

- 1st Cottenham Seniors Club, Teddy bear making by Mrs Mary Masters, Common Room Village College 2:30pm
2nd Salvation Army, Jumble sale, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am – 11:30am
7th Cottenham Toy Library, Regular session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm
7th Salvation Army, Coffee morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
8th Cottenham Village Society, Mr Alan Smith: Astronomy, Cottenham Primary School, 7:45pm
13th Cottenham WI, Annual Meeting and Supper, Franklin Gardens Community Centre, 6:15pm
15th Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, Cottenham Area Group, Illustrated talk 'Enchanted Islands' by Peter Walker, warden of Gamlingay Wood, Cottenham Village College, 7:45pm
15th Cottenham Seniors Club, entertainment by the Fenlanders, Common Room Village College, 2:30pm
16th Fen Edge Footpathers, Mystery tour, Village College, 9:00am (Please phone Peter on 250609 if you intend to participate)
21st Salvation Army, Coffee morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
21st Cottenham Toy Library, Regular session, Salvation Army Barn, 2:15pm – 4:15pm
22nd Fen Edge Arts, Auction of, Cottenham Village College 7:30pm. Viewing from 7:00pm.
22nd Cottenham Garden Club, Meeting, Village College, 7:45pm
26th Cottenham Parish Council meeting, Cottenham Village College, 7:30pm

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Looking for food for body, mind and soul? Keen to meet other people in a child friendly atmosphere?
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Cookie Club meets from 11:00am to noon at Cottenham Baptist Church every termtime Friday. We spend the first part of each session making yummy things – cookies, bread, biscuits. While they're cooking we have a brief bible study and chat, followed by lots more chatting while we eat the cookies!

There are toys for the children and drinks for everyone, and the club is free. People from all or no denomination are most welcome, with or without children.

Contact Rosa on 205059 – or just turn up!

CHAMPION!

A young man getting himself noticed in the Heavy Horse world is 14yr old Stephen Smith of Cottenham. With his father Paul, he attended lots of ploughing matches and enjoyed watching the heavy horses ploughing; Paul decided to buy a Suffolk Punch.

He purchased the filly, Colony Hope, from a stud in Suffolk, and started showing her with some success. She is now 6yrs old and one of the biggest Suffolk mares in the country at

17.2 hands high, Stephen has won many young handler classes this season at Heavy Horse Shows at Soham, Littleport, Quy, Essex Shire Heavy Horse Show, Orsett, Wisbech Heavy Horse Show and Prickwillow, becoming the East Anglian Heavy Horse Champion Young Handler.

Stephen was presented with his trophy at the Wisbech Heavy Horse Society dinner on 25th November.



Colony Hope is in foal to Eyke Glen Ross, a son of Champion Suffolk, Golden Grandchild, and is due on 14th February 2002.

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MISSING SOMETHING?

Hundreds of people from Cottenham and neighbouring villages missed out on the time of their lives last year. "I am still in shock," said one well-known local, "I hadn't realised how much was going on in the village." Discos, parties, a rounders tournament, winter fair, fireworks spectacular: the list of fantastic events organised by the Primary School PTA goes on.

"We had a very full calendar in 2001," Vince Marino, Chair of the PTA, told us, "and all events were well supported, everyone is welcome even if you don't have children at the Primary School, they're real community events."

Fortunately, for those who missed out last year, the PTA is already filling up the diary for 2002. Events kick off in January with a Disco on Saturday 26th to dance away those winter blues. A music quiz in March (Friday 22nd) will be a testing time for all, while a Ceilidh in May will have us gathering nuts!

A rounders event is lined up for June – knock 'em for six(?) – and the PTA summer fair is a chance to have a bit of fun and pick up a few bargains.

By autumn, minds will turn to something more philosophical with a general knowledge quiz, and the perennial fireworks on 2nd November will try to top the 2001 extravaganza, which brings us, once again, to the winter fair for 2002, which will be on Thursday 13th December. "All the proceeds from our packed year of events go to help fund equipment, essentials and fun & games for the Primary School children," explains Marino, "last year we bought the fantastic Design & Build playground feature, which all the children love." PTA also paid for the benches in the school extension and new notice boards, and PTA volunteers have built other playground features.

"In 2002, we're hoping to buy a giant chess-set and other educational toys for the playground, lots of books and more besides," adds Marino.

So, get filling in those new diaries and don't miss out on community events in 2002. If you want to help out with future events and activities talk to Vince Marino on 01954 251664 or find us on the web at <http://edweb.camcnty.gov.uk/schools/cottenhamp/index.htm>

David Bradley

RAMPTON ROAD

Many thanks to everyone who signed the petition calling for a zebra crossing and traffic calming measures on Rampton Road.

Following the receipt of the petition of nearly 400 signatures, we were able to give a short presentation to members of the South Cambridgeshire Environment and Transport Area Joint Committee at the County Council Offices in Cambridge on 10th December.

Committee members agreed to a recommendation that speed reduction measures are put in place on Rampton Road and Oakington Road and a zebra crossing on Rampton Road.

These measures are desperately needed. Traffic is much increased in the village and many heavy lorries and commuter traffic use Rampton Road and Oakington Road. Thirty children from the primary school, nine from the pre-school and children from the Village College need to cross this road at least twice every day. There is no buffer from passing traffic as the narrow pavements are right next to the road and some parents drive their children to school rather than walk to keep their children safe, thus adding further to the volume of traffic.

Rampton Road separates a mixture of residents from village amenities and this is particularly hard for the elderly and disabled. A zebra crossing and traffic calming would make these roads safer for all.

Our action has been fully supported by Cottenham Parish Council, the local County and District Councillors, the Headteacher at the Primary School and the head of the Pre-School.

These measures should be introduced between April 2002 – April 2003.

Cathie Stableford, Linda Mynott and Claire Scott

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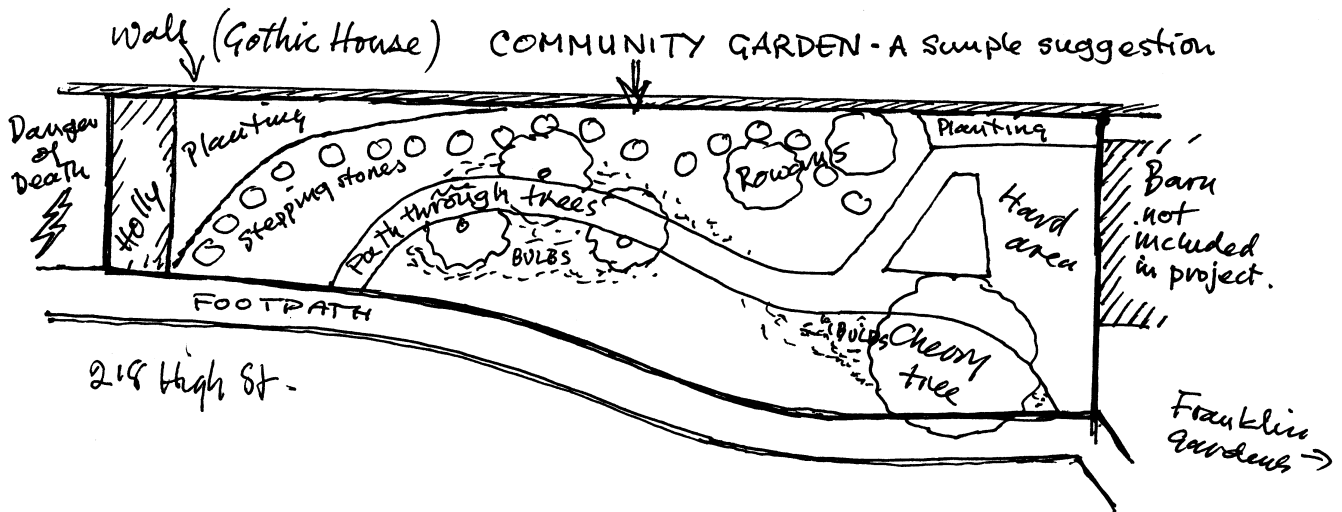
COMMUNITY GARDEN GROUP

We once had a dog that had been neglected for about as long as the Wayside Garden patch. He was a whippet cross and when we acquired him, it looked as though one of his parents might have been a Brillo pad! Once he had been cared for, he turned out very well, as I am sure the new Wayside Garden will (please see accompanying sketch). At least a start has been made; the grass has been cut and the dead leaves removed ready for bulb planting.

The group, now called the Cottenham Community Garden Group, has applied for membership of the Community Association, opened a bank account and has arranged an open meeting for all who are interested – details below. There is a way in which everyone can help now and that is by not leaving litter on the site. Maybe one day we will be able to provide a litter bin, but for the moment the nearest one is outside the chemist's shop.

Make a note in your diaries. The meeting will be in the Lecture Room at the Village College on Tuesday, February 26 at 8:00 pm. Oh, and you better mug up on "plants for winter interest" because Rod is setting us a quiz on the subject for that night!

Andrew Withers for the Cottenham Community Garden Group

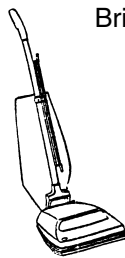


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SHED BURGLARIES

During the period between January and October 2001 there were 149 reported shed/outbuilding burglaries on Histon sector.

Garden sheds, are often an easy target for burglars who will steal tools, lawnmowers and electrical goods. Even if you don't keep anything of value in your shed, burglars can use garden tools to break into your home. Sheds are not designed for safe storage.

Think about the security of your property from the point of view of a burglar who will not want to be seen, heard or steal identifiable property. Create a more secure garden – it is your first line of defence against intruders.

- Ensure that the boundary fencing and hedging are in a good state of repair.
- Gates should be as strong as the fence and fitted with locks.
- Consider the use of gravel on driveways and paths – it is noisy underfoot.
- Fit security lighting.
- Make sure that the door, door frame and walls of your shed are solid and replace any damaged or rotten sections.
- Fit two closed shackle padlocks on strong padlock hasps, one a third of the way down from the top of the door, and one a third of the way up from the bottom of the door. (Beware that screws are easily pulled out from wood – coach bolts would be better for securing the hasps).

- If there are opening windows, fit window locks.
- Wrap a strong chain around valuable equipment and through the handles of garden tools.

Mark your gardening tools and equipment permanently with your postcode followed by the number of your house. This will help the police identify your property even if it is found in another part of the country. You could also consider purchasing an alarm. These can be purchased for as little as £10 from local DIY stores.

*Graham Whitby
PC 953
Histon Sector*

JAPAN COMES TO HADDENHAM

In February a month of Japanese Culture comes to Haddenham. Exhibitions on Japanese printmaking, ceramics, kimonos and dolls will be on display. There will also be demonstrations of Japanese flower arranging, the tea ceremony and a performance of taiko drumming. There will be talks and workshops by the artists throughout the month.

For a full programme of the events and further information call 01353 749188 or write to Haddenham Studio and Gallery, 20 High Street Haddenham, Ely, Cambs CB6 3XA.

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FEN EDGE ARTS

We continue our programme of presenting a wide variety of arts events across Fen Edge and we are always very pleased when people from one village come across to another one, or visit from other Cambridgeshire villages.

December saw a totally new event come to the Ploughman Hall at Willingham, to put us all in the Christmas mood. An evening with Flame.co dance, which was a real delight. Two dancers, guitarist and singer gave us such an inspiring performance of flamenco that by the end of the evening they had the whole audience rising to applaud them.

Looking into the new year, our star attraction is a grand Textile weekend, February 22,23,24. This event is to be advertised nationally, so should attract large numbers of enthusiasts and admiring onlookers from far and near. We do hope to see you there. We shall follow this weekend with a celebrity talk and workshop from the internationally famous Heidi Lichterman, weaver and designer, who has received major commissions throughout the world. We are lucky enough to have her visit Cottenham Village College on Friday, March 15th, to give an illustrated talk, followed by a Sunday workshop, March 17th, on Ikat weaving, when participants can produce their own silk dyed work.

We shall be holding our Auction of Promises on Friday, March 22nd, at the College, with many exciting items to bid for, thanks to generous offers from individuals and businesses. Please look out for catalogues, which will be available round the village.

We are also much looking forward to a concert in the spring with Nick Barraclough, ex-Radio Cambridgeshire presenter. A very enjoyable evening is promised.

Finally, for all the family, the 'mad' Circus Berzercus is coming to Waterbeach on Thursday, April 18th. A must for all families who enjoy an evening of technical skill and chaotic clowning.

The many people who have taken part in our Age Concern Millennium events over the past two years will be delighted to hear that we were invited to meet the Prince of Wales, at St James' Palace, in November. Many students at the College and Over 60s from all our villages have enjoyed the special events which this award funded – outings to shops,

CRIME REPORT

The following are the crimes reported to the police in Cottenham for November 2001.

High Street	Graffiti – spray paint on house windows and doors
High Street	Motorcycle damaged
High Street	Shop robbery using shotgun
Histon Road	Lock of workshop broken, various tools taken
Pelham Way	Offender climbed onto roof and checked windows
Twentypence Road	Theft of car
Twentypence Road	Wooden fence broken down
5 Pelham Close	Unsuccessful attempt made to steal petrol
15 Setchell Drive	Barbed wire cut and wooden posts taken
16 High Street	Rover stolen from outside pub
21 Church Lane	Fencing cut, property stolen
22 Smithy Fen	Two secured horse exercise carts stolen
29 Brenda Gawtry Way	Petrol syphoned from car
29 Lyles Road	Petrol syphoned from car

Some of the above crimes which do not have a date attached happened some time in the month of November.

Things look better than October which had a very long list of crimes indeed (see last *Newsletter*). However, the armed robbery of Shaun's Newsagents is very alarming indeed. Theft of property from cars (other than stealing petrol) seems to have fallen off dramatically from October.

gardens, the Dome, Duxford; workshops in textiles, poetry writing, and local history; environmental days. Mary Longstaff, our representative from Waterbeach, had a wonderful evening and talked to Prince Charles about some of our highlights. In these days when older people and teenagers sometimes seem wary of each other, this award has been an excellent example of how the two generations can join together for their mutual stimulation and enjoyment.

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

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GOLDEN JUBILEE WEEKEND

The Parish Council is organising a grand charity fete to celebrate the golden jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2002.

Again, as it was for the centenary of the Parish Council in 1994 and 1995, the village green will be the venue. The theme, however, will change, it being the younger members of our community. Previous events held looked back and were anniversaries of certain events and occasions over the past one hundred years. In 2002 we look ahead.

The event will take place over the weekend of 20th – 21st July and given good weather it could become as successful and memorable an occasion as those of 94 & 95. The main afternoon event of 20th July will be the Charity Fete between 2:00pm and 5:00pm.

Marquees will be hired and erected on the green during Friday and dismantled on Monday. This will allow use of this facility possible on the evenings of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Already a programme is arranged for Saturday and Sunday evening of that weekend.

Invitations have been sent out to some 100 local groups and national charities to come along and join us in the fun of the afternoon of 20th. The response has been good and any group attending can benefit from any funds raised on their respective stall or display, there being no charge by the council for their attending. It is also an opportunity for all local groups within our village to sell themselves and make those new in our community aware of their existence. Ideal for increasing the membership and much needed funds.

There will be more details available in forthcoming editions of the *Newsletter* but the following events have been arranged and are listed for your information; please remember the dates and the events, and please support them.

Friday 19th July – evening The Marquee, nothing to date has been arranged or planned. Details to be announced later.

On Saturday 20th July – 2:00pm until 5:00pm there will be a Charity Fete on the Village Green. This event is themed ‘the young in our community ‘ A number of events are being organised.

Those attending will be entertained by the Springwood High School Concert Band from Kings Lynn. In the past ten years the band has appeared all over Britain and Europe and performs for Her Majesty each year at the Sandringham Flower Show. The school can also boast having had members appearing in and winning sections in the BBC Young Musician Competition. For music lovers it’s a must.

Justo James and Saha Lee Magic Show and clown is a must for the younger generation. In addition to a forty-minute magic show, the family entertainers will be present on the green with balloon modelling and face painting.

Cub Leisure will be in attendance with their army inflatable assault course and cub rally karts.

It is hoped that upwards of 75 local groups and national charities will stage a stall or display. Some will advertise their activities, including some involved in animal welfare and homing. It is also hoped that there will be displays of tractors, farm machinery and bygones.

There will be fancy dress and picture competitions. Both of these will be open to children up to and including the age of sixteen years. Nearer the date, entry forms for both will be available at the Cottenham Library and the offices of the Cambridge Building Society. All paintings will be displayed in the large marquee, following judging. An appropriate prize will be awarded in all classes. It is hoped that the theme will be the achievements of man over the past fifty years of Her Majesty’s reign. Mums and dads are encouraged to give a little guidance here! The theme for the fancy dress is still open to suggestion! Refreshments during the afternoon will be provided by the Salvation Army Corps.

On the evening of Saturday the 20th of July we will have jazz in the marquee. This type of event on the green is a first. All who wish are invited to come along and listen to the music. Barry Palser and the Savoy Jazzmen will entertain

continued on next page



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during the evening. There will be a small dance floor for those who wish to kick their heels. At the moment planning for the evening has not been finalised. There may be a bar-becue but it is not envisaged that bar facilities will be provided. All are invited to bring along their picnic nibbles, their chosen brew and a garden chair if you feel that your legs may need an occasional rest.

On Sunday 21st July, Cottenham Gardeners Club are again arranging an open garden day. As on previous occasions, a number of gardens, small and large, will be open for visiting throughout the day. Tickets giving admission to all gardens will be available from the club and I hear that a bus will run around the village providing transport for those taking part.

There will be an afternoon band concert from 3:30pm until 5:00pm. Cottenham Brass Band, under their band-master Colin Watson, will stage a concert of light and popular music in the marquee. Light refreshments will be available and residents are again invited to bring along a light picnic.

Between 6:00pm and 7:00pm. Cottenham Brass Band will present an hour of Songs of Praise. The programme will consist of traditional hymns and, like the afternoon concert it will include guest soloists and audience participation.

We hope this programme of events will make for a weekend to remember!

Peter Sanderson

REFLECTIONS...

by Moyra A Borg

Oh dear, the year 2002 ought to mean something quite significant to me because I shall be 40 in a few weeks' time. Well now, I always thought that by the time you are 40 you were supposed to be older, wiser and more financially secure. Your career should be well established, you should have your own home, family (??) and have achieved most of your early life's ambitions. Oh yes, and people ought to take you seriously and think that you are a 'respectable' person. Hmm, well, I cannot say that I score very highly on that scale. All I have is grey hairs, quite a few less teeth than I started out with and a few 'laughter lines' on my face!! No, nobody takes me seriously in life at all. I have to say that this must be my fault. I am not pompous though and never shall

be, so I am perhaps doomed to be thought of as a bit of a village idiot. I get on well with most people and seem to like persons who are not liked by others. I always try to see the good in people even if sometimes one has to dig quite deeply. I very often don't see the bad parts of a person at all. Talking to people is something I need to do and I love listening too.

I know that it is the sign of a true genius to be as batty as I am. Every day I try to cope with the world. I check that my T-shirt is not inside out or back to front. I then check that I am not wearing anything else inside out or back to front. Some days I do not get this right. When I turn up at work with my T-shirt inside out or back to front, a kind hint or facial expression from a friend will tell me to adjust things. If people can't be bothered with me they will just leave me as I am and I shall spend over an hour with things the wrong way round. I laugh at myself, but then that is a good thing and there are lots of people who cannot laugh at themselves. I have given up checking that I am wearing a pair of socks. I just cannot find any pairs of socks any more. They are all over the place. I just try to combine my colours thoughtfully. I am an artistic person you see. I enjoy life every day and having odd socks does not ever put a damper on that. Life is good.

To be truthful, it would be a wonderful release for me if someone in authority were to say.... 'Not to worry... you don't have to go to work any more.' I would then be less exhausted and able to relax and concentrate on just living. However I would also be completely broke. I only just cope with life and do the things I absolutely have to do and precious little else. My friends are more important to me than ever. They keep me sane and mean more than they know.

So what am I planning to do this year? I have a brand new box of watercolour paints sitting under the stairs getting dusty. I have a bicycle in a friend's garage getting rusty. I have bagpipes in a box getting fusty...they have been there for nearly 20 years. My grandfather was a hoarder like I am. If he wasn't using something at the time, it would either get put in the 'wash 'ouse or up in the loft. When we were children he kept promising us that there was a violin up in the loft. The thought of him bringing this down was so exciting. Imagine my disappointment when he eventually did bring it down. He held it in his hands but it just collapsed in a heap of dust. So can our lives if we leave things in the loft for too long.



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Cottenham & District Sports Centre is situated at the rear of Cottenham Village College. The sports centre has been designed to cater for the needs of not only the school children but also the residents of Cottenham and the surrounding district. The facilities are available for casual and block booking use in the weekday evenings and at weekends.

There are a variety of facilities available. The Main Sports Hall includes three badminton courts, a volleyball court or a three-quarter size basketball court. Two floodlit multi-purpose all weather areas have capacity for either four tennis courts, three netball courts or two five-a-side courts. Seasonal grass sports pitches include two football, one rugby, one cricket and one hockey pitch. We also have indoor and outdoor cricket lanes, and a gymnasium with wooden flooring which has capacity for a badminton court or is ideal for martial arts and keep fit.

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New opening hours starting 3rd January 2002: Monday – Friday 5:00pm – 10:30pm, Saturday & Sunday 9:30am – 5:30pm.

For more information please call 01954 288760

James Verrinder, Sports Centre manager and development officer.

BIRD REPORT

Bird watching is an all-year-round activity. Those people interested in flowers or butterflies have a thin time in winter, but at this time of year the bird world is full of interest.

As usual Long Drove is full of noisy fieldfares and among them are a few redwings. Look out for redwings also on the village green and on the grass outside the college.

Snipe have returned to some of the ditches near to the village and fields are often full of what are referred to as LBJs (little brown jobs!). They are often difficult to identify positively, but these flocks may often include sparrows, chaffinches, greenfinches, yellowhammers and, perhaps, corn buntings and linnets.

Down Smithy Fen I came across a flock of about a hundred pied wagtails. What were they all doing there and why have I not seen them since?

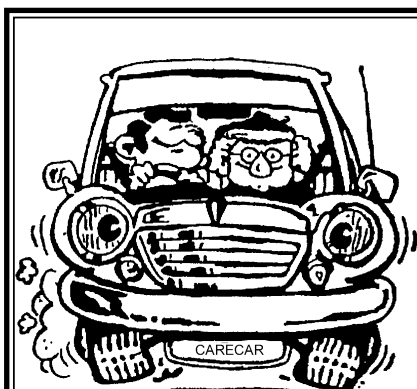
There are often jays in Rampton Spinney and I have seen more reed buntings recently between Rampton and Cottenham.

Late one afternoon I watched a barn owl on Long Drove for about half an hour. Its ghost-like form glided silently across the fields, until it perched on a post. Eventually, it was chased off by a crow.

Almost everybody will recognise a heron and it has become a symbol of this area. I heard of a heron perched on a roof top in Victory Way and another heron found injured in a garden in Males Close. Richard Smith took a photo of this bird – a wonderful portrait, with every feather clear and bright.

Other possible winter birds are siskins and bramblings but they are less common. Some years ago I drove to Hunstanton to see some waxwings only to discover, on my return, that there was a flock on the trees outside the Primary School in Lambs Lane!

Jasper Kay, December 2001



COTTENHAM CARECAR

Volunteer drivers, and their cars, are now needed in order to meet the mobility needs of the infirm, elderly and house-bound of Cottenham. There are no fixed hours; drivers declare their own availability. A GENEROUS ALLOWANCE COVERS ALL RUNNING COSTS.

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COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

The Area Transport Committee has agreed to fund a speed reduction scheme on Rampton Road. The decision follows the submission of a bid by Cottenham Parish Council which has agreed to contribute funding to the scheme. Local residents also presented the Committee with a petition of nearly 400 signatures in support of the scheme. Details now have to be discussed locally but could include interactive speed warning signs, like those on Histon Road, and a pedestrian crossing. Improvements may possibly be made to the junction with Oakington Road.

The electoral review of District Council ward boundaries in South Cambridgeshire has published draft recommendations which keep Cottenham in an enlarged ward together with Rampton and Oakington/Westwick. The new ward would be represented by three district councillors. The new arrangements would take effect from May 2003, when there would be district-wide elections for all seats on the District Council based on the new wards. Any views about the new proposals should be sent by 28 January 2002 to The Review Manager, South Cambridgeshire Review, Local Government Commission for England, Dolphyn Court, 1011 Great Turnstile, London 7JU.

Cambridgeshire County Council has decided that a new town of 6,000 homes will be built on Oakington Airfield by 2016. The decision now has to go out to public consultation and be examined by a government planning inspector.

Surgeries continue on the third Friday of the month from 5:30pm – 6:30pm in the Communal Room at Franklin Gardens. Just come along if you have something you want to discuss or alternatively contact me at home (details on back cover).

Rex Collinson

Implementing the Cambridge Sub-Regional Strategy, a report by Roger Tym & Partners identifies two billion pounds of infrastructure requirements for the projected influx of 100,000 people over the coming fifteen years and suggests ways of achieving them. 47,000 homes are needed

to house the families attracted by the 56,000 jobs being generated by the powerhouse of the Cambridge Phenomenon. The Regional Economic Strategy calls for annual gross product growth of 3.3 per cent throughout this decade. The local labour market is already very tight, with wages running about 13 per cent higher than the national average.

The escalation of activity over the past fifteen years has not been matched by a corresponding investment in services. A modern high-tech economy has been grafted on to a constricted historic city and its rural hinterland. If the infrastructure deficit is not tackled quickly the success of the sub-region may be strangled in its infancy.

The whole range of facilities has to be provided to cater for the high quality of life we have come to expect. These include all the utilities (which means upgrading all the distribution networks for gas, electricity, telecommunications, fresh water and waste water), education and healthcare, leisure and social services, police, firefighters, affordable and key worker housing, major improvements to national and local roads, and greatly enhanced public transport.

Paragraph 4.37 warns that the sub-region's expansion is very much dependent on delivery of an improved transportation network. "Agreement on the form and nature of potential Private Finance Initiative contracts and their successful detailed negotiation is perhaps the single most important 'critical path' issue."

Section 106 agreements are regarded as key to the success of the strategy. These are legal obligations binding councils, developers and others to undertake works or provide benefits to compensate for adverse impacts. They generally cover transport and travel, community facilities, recreation and open space, affordable housing, off-site mains engineering and environmental protection. This mechanism is often colloquially known as "planning gain".

The Section 106 agreement for Cambourne took two years to negotiate and at the time of signature in 1994 was valued at £32 million, equivalent to a "roof tax" of £15,000 per market house at current values. (The preferred term is "development levy"). This figure is regarded as a benchmark for the sub-region, so long as it is linked to real-estate indices to prevent landowners from postponing sales in order to erode the Section 106 discount in the value of their holdings.

continued overleaf

ARTICLES, DATES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

E-mail, PC floppy disk and paper submissions are all welcome. Please contact the Editors if you have any questions. Dates of events to be advertised in the next issue (No. 68) should span the last week of March and the months of April and May.

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continued from previous page

Various options for a delivery vehicle for all this infrastructure are examined, using comparisons with other parts of the country over the past half century or so, concluding with the merits of a “stakeholder partnership” of the local authorities, central government, landowners and developers, businesses and the community. Flexible operational arrangements are a key incentive for entrepreneurial involvement in getting results.

Your County Councillor Peter Stroude and I are available for consultation between 5.30pm and 6.30pm on the first Friday of every month in the communal room at Franklin Gardens. Otherwise you can contact us at any time in person or by post, telephone or email. Details are on the back page.

Tim Wotherspoon

The name “Longstanton” seems to be gaining acceptance generally as people appreciate the special steps being taken to protect Oakington and avoid coalescence as part of the new town project. Extension beyond 2016 is likely to involve encircling anticlockwise around the north of my home village of Longstanton.

The county council has done a much more thorough job than the district council in setting criteria, weightings and scoring for each potential location. They have also done an analysis of sensitivity to variation and concluded that the assessment method is robust, in the sense that small variations in the scores do not cause a complete shake-up in the rankings. The 34 criteria were grouped into 7 tests and Longstanton came top in all of them – marginally ahead of Waterbeach.

I have some sympathy with the complaint that we have been destined to get a large development on the site for many years, and consciously or subconsciously this may have influenced both the choice of criteria and evaluation of the locations against those criteria.

For example, one of the arguments in favour of Longstanton is the comparatively low impact a new town will have on the environment. The planners’ definitions, however, betray an urban bias. To a farmer like myself, a field is brown in autumn and green in spring. Many of the runways were broken up and crushed into hardcore for the M11. The land has not been sprayed for decades and must count amongst the most eco-friendly around here.

Longstanton may be close to major roads, including the M11 and the A14, but what about congestion, even after it has been improved? Longstanton is also said to be within easy

reach of existing employment and well-placed to support and benefit from the high-quality public transport scheme proposed in the CHUMMS report, which was endorsed on Thursday 13th December 2001 by transport minister Sally Keeble. But serious doubts have been voiced about speed, capacity, safety and reliability of the guided bus scheme, which would be the first to run between towns, though many critics who would prefer a conventional railway to be brought back into service along that line do themselves a disservice by being so disparaging about bus passengers in general. Also, it is more difficult to put a bicycle on a bus than on a train. The link between Chesterton sidings and Addenbrookes needs major engineering works involving land acquisition and three new bridges. In the meantime there will be widespread reluctance to accept “demand management” measures to relieve city-centre congestion.

Waterbeach has many of the same benefits as Longstanton. However, the Environment Agency has indicated that almost a third of the site is on a flood plain. Measures could be taken to reduce or remove the risk, but in the current climate this factor was considered a significant drawback. Major investment would also be needed to upgrade the A10 to dual carriageway. The Strategic Rail Authority has reinforced doubts that enhanced rail services from the site could be achieved.

Wherever a new town might have been chosen it is inevitable that opponents would outnumber those in favour, not least because those bringing forward alternative locations feel as much hard done by as affected residents. The Oakington Action Group has mounted an impressive campaign, but I have to acknowledge that there simply isn’t a groundswell of opposition against siting a new town here. Frankly, it’s the only show in town right now.

I just hope this really is the best location for the long-term prosperity of the Cambridge sub-region. It will be an upheaval for our generation, but we must remember that we are planning for our children’s future and our children’s children. Getting it right in the short term means minimising the disruption caused by the construction, not making life hell by diverting traffic through the villages whilst undertaking the A14 improvements, and getting the drainage to work better. I hope the waters are receding and doves can bring back olive branches.

Peter Stroude

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CINDERELLA

Cottenham Theatre Workshop has done it again! They have put on another splendid pantomime that can rival anything the region can offer. To begin with they have chosen a story with a real plot. It contains all the important themes – poor and rich, beautiful and ugly, stupid and intelligent, happy and sad. There is music, dancing, animals and magic; in fact something for everyone.

This was a real family show. I reckon the age range of the performers was at least forty-five years (at a conservative estimate!). There were bangs and surprises (but nothing too frightening) and lots of good jokes (but nothing offensive). A quick glance at the programme shows that many of the performers came from the same families. There can't be many shows where Prince Charming and Buttons are brothers and their father is an Ugly Sister!

The evening went by at a cracking pace and with never a dull moment. As usual, the set was imaginative and practical and there was a superb magic coach to take Cinderella to the ball. The costumes were particularly attractive, being colourful and appearing to be comfortable too.

The band and the singing were excellent. It is a real treat to have live music and not a pre-recorded accompaniment. The company is very lucky in having some very good singers and is particularly fortunate in having young members to play the parts of young characters.

The chorus sang and moved well and for the most part they looked great, but a few sad faces took a little away from the smiles of the majority.

This was a production of enormous fun, and the message is gradually getting around. If you belong to the village, this is your show and if you missed it, you are the loser. Don't make the same mistake again.

Thank you Cottenham Theatre Workshop once again for your professionalism and infectious enthusiasm.

Jasper Kay

OAKSTANTON AND COTTENHAM

The county has taken the decision that the new settlement will be at Oakington Barracks. However, the consultation process is not over. An important stage to come is the 'Examination in Public', which will be carried out by an independent, non political assessor. In time, the proposal of the new town may go in front of the Secretary of State.

What are the potential impacts on Cottenham residents if the new town is sited at Oakington Barracks? Two impacts immediately spring to mind, the increase in the levels of traffic and the greater risks of flooding. The government has given the go ahead for improvements on the A14. Part of the study includes a guided bus route along the St Ives Cambridge railway line and there would be a stop at Oakington. The guided bus route would link up to the proposed Cambridge Rapid Transit System. However, how would access to the A14 from the Oakington road be affect-

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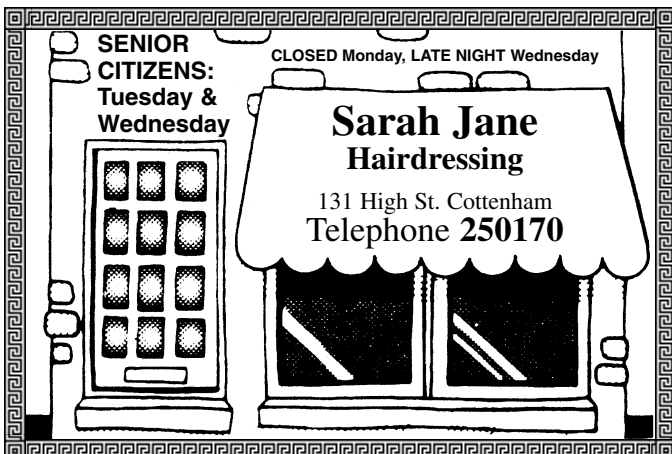
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ed? What about the increased volumes of traffic in Oakington itself?

The drainage of the proposed new town could have a considerable impact on Cottenham. The plans as they stand are to drain water from the new town past Cottenham in the Lode. Will this increase the risk of flooding in and around the village?

The Cottenham Village Design Group is holding an open meeting concerning the proposed new settlement at Oakington Barracks. This is an opportunity for you to hear about the settlement from Gallagher Estates, the property developers, and the opposition to the plans presented by Oakington Action Group. Richard Sutcliffe-Smith, Alan Joyner (project director) and Will Cousins from David Locke and Associates (masterplan on behalf of Gallagher Estates) will give the presentation on the new settlement. This will address the issue of urban design. Representing the Oakington Action Group (raising objections to the development) will be Andy Cave, Simon Edwards and Bill Treneman. After a presentation from each party there will be plenty of time for questions.

Join us at 7.30pm on 13 February in the school hall, Cottenham Village College. Everyone is very welcome. Refreshments will be available.

The Design Group's AGM will follow the meeting.
Jennie Blood Smyth, Secretary, Cottenham Village Design Group
jenniebs@waitrose.com

OYEZ! OYEZ!

That may be the sound you associate with a handbell, but a set of handbells can be used to play tunes. By kind permission of the Churchwardens there is a chance to learn this ancient art on All Saints' Church's fine set of Victorian bells.

A handbell evening class is starting on Monday 14th January. The technique of making a noise with a bell is quite simple, but the real skill is in making the right noise at the right time. By the end of the ten-week course students will be able to ring quite complex tunes and have an introduction to change-ringing on handbells.

No previous experience is needed and you do not need to read music.

Telephone the Continuing Education Office at the Village College (01954 288944) for details of how to enroll or see their brochure for details. For an informal chat about handbells call Gerald Walker on 01954 251298.

Proceeds from the course go to the Church Bell Restoration Fund.



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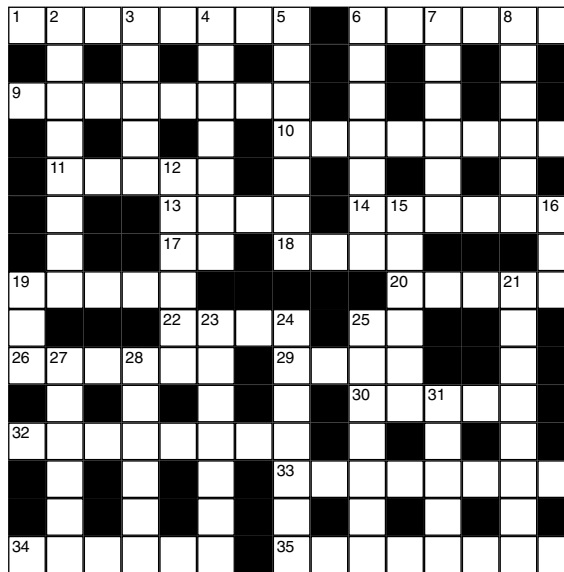
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Crossword

Compiled by Roger Gautrey



ACROSS

- 1 Colonel and her majesty experience domestic strain with it (8)
- 6 Ill smelling food caused by acid rain – not first class anymore (6)
- 9 Was fully aware – should have taken the red aisle (8)
- 10 What kind cows to look at the indicator (8)
- 11 Supposedly she has an investment! (5)
- 13 Ann will have nothing shortly (4)
- 14 Old president gave direction to idiot queen (6)
- 17 Initially leads with power (1, 1)
- 18 Dancer is on the go repeatedly (4)
- 19 Boredom in a french class possibly (5)
- 20 If at first you don't succeed have another attempt (5)
- 22 Round of illness maybe (4)
- 25 Technology girl – could be sexy too (2)
- 26 Half asleep before sword came back from the unknown (6)
- 29 Thinner and longer with a radius perhaps (4)
- 30 Something between skin and bone actually (5)
- 32 Woodsman from before stereotyping began (8)
- 33 Expel ma's models (8)
- 34 The queen is surrounded by duds with milk holders (6)
- 35 Test ewes for the most tender meat (8)

DOWN

- 2 Six balls with spin can topple the other side (8)
- 3 It should be lighter for Charles to hold this book (5)
- 4 Desmond has a list when singing hymns (7)
- 5 The din grew as this bird flew over (7)
- 6 Raining, we hear, now it's slowing down (7)
- 7 Point out session is nothing but rows (6)
- 8 Cold hanger for the french after being in charge twice (6)
- 12 Is 'bash' an indian form of address to foreign gentlemen? (6)
- 15 Possible arterial system in ulna or talus (6)
- 16 Does he look at a beam? (3)
- 19 Stop from falling in fen drain (3)
- 21 Foolhardiness of outbreak on the loch (8)
- 23 Out size tyres could be home for them in shallows (7)
- 24 Rutters around in the towers sometimes (7)
- 25 One german flat could blow up (7)
- 27 Edward or I disturbed the peace (6)
- 28 New revolutionary came from what place (5)
- 31 Old irishman shortly to live abroad (5)

Answers on inside back cover

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PARISH COUNCIL

It is with much sadness that the Council records the passing of one of its longest serving and best respected Members, Doug Ralph, who died on 15th November aged 76 after a long and painful battle with cancer. He served the community and Council for 30 years, half of those as Vice Chairman. Never one to "shout the odds", Doug in his quiet, good-humoured way was always there with restrained and reasonable advice and good counsel. Many residents will also remember him as proprietor of "Eastlands Garage", which he ran for many years until his retirement and where he built up an enviable reputation for quality and good service. In spite of his illness and although often in pain, he continued to attend meetings and make his contribution until very near the end. Doug Ralph was one of nature's gentlemen and will be greatly missed. The Council has decided to dedicate one of the new trees to be planted on the village green, an English Oak, to his memory. Residents may like to know that another new tree, a Horse Chestnut, has been dedicated to the memory of a past Chairman of the Council, the late Eric Peacock, by his family.

The Council has learnt that its bid for Joint Funding for road safety improvements in Oakington Road and Rampton Road has been approved by the County Council. Our County and District Councillors, who attended the decision meeting, reported that the success of the bid was due in no small measure to the efforts of local residents in petitioning the authorities. We look forward to seeing the County Council's detailed proposals.

The fact that the Oakington/Longstanton site seems to be the current favourite for large-scale residential development in the Cambridge area is causing concern regarding the consequential risk of flooding that this development might bring to our village. Cottenham Lode (the "Cut") would be one of the principal escape routes for excess surface water from the development – it is also the outlet for the "balancing pond" in Broad Lane that flooded in October – and we need to be satisfied that whatever system is implemented will have adequate capacity. Surface water drainage is the responsibility of several local and national bodies, and the Council hopes to meet with them and the developer (Gallagher Estates) in 2002 to pursue the matter further.

On a more festive note, the annual Carol Concert on the Green enjoyed the best attendance we can remember. Thanks to all who contributed to make it such a success.

Short Stories & Poetry

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

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A CAUTIONARY TALE

The text message read, "Can I borrow your cloak and where can I buy white make-up and black fish-net stockings?" You might expect this from daughters, but I had sons! Mike is tall, broad shouldered, wears black with hair tied in a pony-tail, he's into body-building and has a brown belt in Karate. Arriving home, he explained he was going to a fancy dress party as Dr. Frank Furter from the Rocky Horror Show.

At primary school he'd won Fancy Dress Competitions. As 'Oliver' from 'Oliver Twist', he went barefoot in ragged trousers holding a bowl in front of him. The trouble was Dad thought he looked too clean, fetched mud from the garden and smeared it over Mike's face and legs. He won, but people backed away, afraid of catching something.

Over supper Mike described how he'd got the stockings. Instead of asking a girlfriend to buy them he had gone with her. Typical! They guessed the size and went to the counter. The assistant wrapped them and passed them to the girl. She promptly shoved them at Mike, saying they had nothing to do with her. "If they're for the gentleman, they might be a touch small," the assistant joked. Mike groaned loudly, "But I wanted to wear them this weekend!" The assistant reddened as Mike's friend struggled to drag him, still protesting, from the shop.

Father was holding forth, "I don't care. If you want me to fetch you, be standing outside on the pavement by eleven, prompt."

"But Dad, I could get picked up!"

"Good. It will save me driving you home!"

"OK. If you say so," Mike grinned. As usual he had not told him the full story.

"Mum, can you help?" Mike was standing in front of a mirror, attempting to stuff his long hair into a small black curly wig. His face was covered in white pan-stick make-up and his lips were a garish red slash. I helped him with the wig. He was wearing a tightly laced black bodice made from an old "T" shirt he'd cut up and laced through with black wool. He shooed me from the room saying he had to put on his stockings.

"But I thought Dr. Frank Furter was a man," I protested.

"Are you ready, Mum?" As ready as I'll ever be, I thought.

My black velvet cloak covered him except for the fishnet ankles peeping from black low slung heels. I would impress him with my "cool" attitude. "The shoes are attractive but shouldn't you practice walking in case you twist an ankle?"

continued overleaf

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continued from previous page

He said it was all right. It came naturally." I did not pursue this. "The cloak looks good." "Oh, the cloak comes off the moment I arrive. I'll look like this at the party," he said dropping it with a flourish.

Stunned, I studied the image before me. Black curly wig, white face, red lips, tightly laced black bodice, scarlet lace suspender belt with the skimpiest of black briefs followed by those fishnet tights and black sling-backs. I sank to the nearest chair. Dad, used to taking photos of Mike in fancy dress, almost dropped the camera focusing on the apparition that appeared in the lens. A friend of Mike's, dressed as a respectable Buddy Holly, took him to the party. I pleaded with Mike to take jeans and trainers in case he ended up in a police station or hospital, which I thought highly probable.

The moral? – Think before entering sons in fancy dress competitions. You never know where it might end.

Miranda Bonner

FOOTPATHERS

The Fen Edge Footpathers are polishing their boots ready for an extensive programme of events this year. There are walks planned for late January and March noted in the diary of this edition. A full programme of walks is available from Jasper Kay tel: 250485.

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Across
1 Colander, 6 Rancid, 9 Realised, 10 Windsock
11 Tessa, 13 Anon, 14 Nasser, 17 H. T., 18 Gogo
19 Ennu, 20 Reiry, 22 Bout, 25 It, 26 Drowsy
29 Ulna, 30 Flesh, 32 Forester, 33 Examples
34 Udders, 35 Sweetest

Down
2 Overtum, 3 Atlas, 4 Descant, 5 Redwing, 6 Reining,
7 Noises, 8 Icicle, 12 Sahibs, 15 Aortal, 16 Ray,
19 End, 21 Rashness, 23 Oysters, 24 Turrets
25 Inlate, 27 Rioted, 28 Whence, 31 Expat

– Crossword answers

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**Contact Peter Robertson on
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Deadline

**FOR NEXT ISSUE
25th FEBRUARY**

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, 10.00 am – 4.00 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
Cottenham Toy Library.....	Carol Grange.....	251528
Dentist.....	Mr. Faber, Old Telephone Exchange, 40 Margett Street.....	251696
Chemist.....	Cooperative Pharmacy Cottenham, 222 High Street.....	250556
Chiroprapist.....	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
Under Ones Group.....		250609
Pre-School.....	Ladybirds Pre-School, Recreation Ground.....	250891
Out of School Club.....		250025
Council Offices.....	South Cambs. District Council.....	01223 443000
	Cambridgeshire County Council.....	01223 717111
Parish Council.....	Clerk – P.J. Sanderson, 37 Broad Lane.....	250836
District Councillors.....	Rex Collinson, 20 Rampton Road. e-mail: rex@rcollinson.fsnet.co.uk	251377
	Tim Wotherspoon, 135 High Street. e-mail: tim.wotherspoon@uk.uuimail.com	252108
County Councillor.....	Peter Stroude, e-mail: peter@stroude.fsbusiness.co.uk	01954 780008
British Red Cross.....	Cambridge Office.....	01223 354434
Citizens Advice.....	CAB, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.....	08701 264010
Social Services.....	Histon Team.....	01223 264466
Mobile Warden Service.....		251182
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.....	Pegasus Taxi.....	01954 261324
Library.....	Margett Street.....	273322
Library Doorstep Service.....	Hilary Firth.....	01223 715715
Parish Church.....	The Rectory, 6 High Street.....	250454
Baptist Church.....	Rosa Hunt (Church Secretary) 62 Wilkin Walk.....	205059
Methodist Church.....	The Rev'd. Cynthia Hardiman, Wesley House, 250 High Street.....	250242
Salvation Army.....	Majors Ken and Jill Bartlett, 15 Pelham Close.....	250524

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