

# COTTENHAM NEWSLETTER



COTTENHAM

ISSUE NUMBER 85

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2005

## HUMANITY

I have just spent a few hours at the Methodist Hall boxing the donations made by the people of Cottenham for the relief of those devastated by the tsunami in Sri Lanka. It was an uplifting experience to see generosity on such a grand scale. Person after person came bearing so much that half way through the first day of collection we had to turn away donations of clothes because there was not the capacity to transport all of the donations to the disaster area.

It was clear that many people had taken a lot of trouble to identify and bring useful items. It was also evident that many people had bought things specifically to donate as there was proliferation of donations which were obviously new. Apparently the Co-op ran out of several of the items specifically requested in the appeal leaflet. The generosity was in evidence in the Parish Church Hall also where the

pile of donations outstripped even the overwhelming volume gathered in the Methodist Hall.



*Jacky Dixon and Julie Groves with the 7.5 ton lorry of, mainly non-clothing, supplies sent from Cottenham to Sri Lanka.*

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the donations will have reached those who need them so badly. We must all hope they have done a little to relieve the suffering which is on an unimaginable scale.

Furthermore, all the clothing collected was donated to the Cottenham Primary School 'Bags to School' initiative. The funds raised from this will be donated to the Tsunami appeal also.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of Jacky Dixon, Paula Johnson and Julie Groves in particular and all the other volunteers for creating and managing the mechanism by which so much could be given.

*Eddie Murphy*



HUGHES-PARRY  
VETERINARY CLINIC



**252122**

24 Hour  
Emergency Service

**A caring and professional service for your pets**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8.30am – 12.00 noon

Monday to Friday 4.30pm – 7.00pm

Saturday 8.30am – 11.00am

Fully equipped surgery • In-house laboratory • Microchipping and pets' passports  
Free well pet clinics • Puppy socialisation classes • Hills Diets

**All consultations by appointment**

66 High Street, Cottenham, Cambridge CB4 8SA

Main surgery: 34 High Street, Longstanton Telephone: 01954 780027

# VILLAGE DIARY

## February

- 3rd Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
- 7th Fen Edge Cinema Club, The General and The Red Balloon, Village College 7.30pm
- 9th WI, North to Alaska – Margaret Rogers, Village College, 7:30pm
- 10th Parish Council, Planning application meeting, Parish Council Office – Watson's Yard, 7:15pm
- 11th Seniors' Club, 'The Cambridge you don't know', slides with Janet Jeacock, Village College 2:30pm
- 11th Village Society, Route 66: Chicago to Los Angeles – a talk by Andrew Norton, Primary School, 7:45pm
- 12th Salvation Army, Jumble Sale, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am – 11:30am
- 15th Parish Council, Regular Meeting, Village College, 7:30pm
- 17th Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
- 24th Parish Council, Planning application meeting, Parish Council Office – Watson's Yard, 7:15pm
- 25th Seniors' Club, 'Windmills' slides and talk by W Last, Village College 2:30pm
- 25th Gardeners Club, AGM, Village College 7:45pm

## March

- 3rd Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
- 7th Fen Edge Cinema Club, Playtime, Village College, 7:30pm
- 9th WI, Annual Supper, Village College, 6:15pm for 6:30pm
- 10th Parish Council, Planning application meeting, Parish Council Office – Watson's Yard, 7:15pm
- 11th Seniors' Club, A miscellany of music with the Chestnuts, Village College 2:30pm
- 11th Village Society, Round Trafalgar Square, – a talk by Kevin Drake, Primary School, 7:45pm
- 12th Salvation Army, Jumble Sale, Salvation Army Barn 10:00am – 11:30am
- 15th Parish Council, Regular Meeting, Village College, 7:30pm
- 17th Salvation Army, Coffee Morning, Salvation Army Barn, 10:00am – 11:30am
- 18th Gardeners Club, Village College, 7:45pm
- 21st Fen Edge Cinema Club, The Ladykillers, Village College, 7:30pm
- 24th Parish Council, Planning application meeting, Parish Council Office – Watson's Yard, 7:15pm
- 25th Salvation Army, Good Friday Service, Salvation Army Hall, 7:00pm

## SMALL ADS

**COTTENHAM FAMILY SEEKS (IDEALLY) THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE** in the village to rent for six-months from around March 2005. If you have a suitable property to let in that period please contact Eddie on 01954 251700.

.....  
**TO LET:** Charming, two-bedroomed, Victorian Cottage in Corbett Street (with immediate effect) for £600 pcm + bills. F or U/F. Very good condition. For more details please ring R. Jones on 01223 880337.

.....  
**HOUSE DEMOLITION:** PVC windows and doors, internal doors, gas fires and much more available. If interested call Eddie on 01954 251700.

.....  
**COSTA DEL SOL:** new two twin bedroom apartment for rental near Benalmadena Costa. Sleeps five or six. Close to beach, golf and water sports. It has a 50 foot terrace overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and the communal swimming pool. All Mod Cons. Video and rates on request. Tel 01954 251248.

.....  
**Why not advertise in the Newsletter! Items for sale, announcement of family events... 5p per word, with all proceeds going to charity. Send advertisements and payment to the editor. Cheques should be made payable to 'Cottenham Newsletter'.**

## Family Festival 2005

Calling all budding artists. We are running a competition for people of all ages to design a 'mascot' and/or poster for the Fen Edge Family Festival which is to be held between the 24th and 26th June next year. This event should appeal to a wide range of people, as activities across the weekend vary from Kids Messy Play through to a Tea Dance through to a Jazz Evening.

Entries for the competition need to be submitted to the Fen Edge Community Association at Cottenham Village College by 11th March 2005. The design must not be any bigger than A4 in size and needs to be in black and white. The winner/s will receive free entry into an event of their choice during the weekend, and the design will be used in the publicity material.

Any queries please contact Emma Green on (01954) 252954.

# TWINNING

In 2005 it's the Patch's turn to visit our twinning partner, Avrillé in Maine-et-Loire, France. Normally each exchange – whether in England or France – has a theme, but very understandably we haven't yet heard from France what next year's theme is to be.

As in the past, we plan to travel by coach. Last time we went – two years ago – the cost was £85 per adult, with reduced fees for children. It's too early to say how much the cost will be this year but we hope it won't be significantly higher than this figure, especially as Euro tunnel is offering each official twinning association a free coach ticket – and three free car tickets – to celebrate the centenary of the entente cordiale. We've yet to decide the fairest way to allocate the car tickets, but we would strongly recommend coming on the coach as it's good fun, particularly for children. Not just children though – several of us made progress in Bridge last time, taking advantage of the experience of several skilled players present. Then there's the possibility of playing Bridge with our French hosts, as Avrillé boasts a thriving Bridge club.

As in past years, we are having a social evening before we go. As the exchange will be from May 27th to 30th, this year's social event will be long before we go – 28th January to be exact. As before, this is to be a bring and share evening. This will be at 7.30pm at the Octagon, Willingham Parish Church. There will be a raffle.

For further details about the Twinning Association, please contact the Chairman, Deborah Loveluck at [loveluck@ntl-world.com](mailto:loveluck@ntl-world.com) giving 'twinning' as the subject of your email.

*Steve Howie*

# CRIME REPORT

Christmas preparations must have been weighing heavily on the criminal fraternity as the list of reported crimes in Cottenham in the month of November is the shortest I have ever reported. Hopefully, this reflects an actual low level of crime and not that people are not reporting incidents.

As always, if you know of a crime that took place in November which was reported to the police and is not listed here, please let me know (contact details on the back page).

*Eddie Murphy*

Date	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
(Nov)		
4	Common Assault	High Street
13	Criminal damage to a vehicle	Coolidge Gardens
16	Theft	Bullfinch Way
24	Theft from a shop	High Street

# FOUND

Found after the Carol Concert on the Green a multicoloured children's glove, and a black ladies glove. They can be reclaimed from Robert & Frances Clark's home, 12, Lambs Lane, tel: 01954 250443.

## GIUSEPPE PIRAN

### PAINTING & DECORATING

Professional and Experienced  
In all aspects of Painting & Decorating

City & Guilds Qualified  
Dulux Approved



Free Estimates and Professional Advice

Tel/Fax 01954 201167

Mob 07748 155475

Email [GPIRAN@AOL.COM](mailto:GPIRAN@AOL.COM)

## Peter Giddens & Co.

*Solicitors*

Hours: Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Evenings by arrangement

266 High Street  
Cottenham  
Cambridge CB4 8RZ

Telephone: 01954 250089

## Physic (Oakington Therapy Centre)

Oakington Road Girton Cambridge CB3 0QH

01223 237459

Osteopathy, Acupuncture, Chinese Herbal Medicine, Homeopathy, Reflexology  
Indian Head Massage, Aromatherapy, Massage, Sports Injury & Sports

*New - New - New - New - New*

Podiatry/Chiropody • Medical Herbalism • Counselling

Nutritional Therapy • Iridology • Food Allergy Testing - Shiatsu

# YOUTH FUNDING

Youth and community groups throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can still benefit from approximately £120,000 of government funding between December 2004 and March 2005. The Local Network Fund at Cambridgeshire ACRE has secured extra funding for their current financial year as well as a third year's funding of approximately £366,000 to enable groups to apply for projects from £250 to £7,000.

Last year the Local Network Fund awarded a total of over £320,000 to deserving groups throughout the county. This money went towards a range of projects including starting up mother and toddler groups, karate groups and youth cricket teams. Also to benefit from last year's pot were drama training projects, art workshops, museums, pre-schools and skate clubs.

Any voluntary group, charity, association or self-help group working with children or young people who are disadvantaged in some way can apply to the Fund, for imaginative projects that fit into the four main themes; aspiration and experiences, economic disadvantage, isolation and access and children's voices.

Local Network Fund Co-ordinator Corrina Nicholson said, "So far this has been a really positive experience that has benefited various communities all over Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We are so pleased that our funding has been increased for this year and that we are able to continue this work forward to what will hopefully be another successful year!"

"Our fund is very people-friendly, Development Officer Jenny Roberts is on hand every step of the way to talk over project ideas, give help with filling in forms, or any other background information groups may need. Workshops are provided throughout the year on filling out the forms as well as one-to-one meetings."

Any groups interested in applying for a grant should contact the Local Network Fund Call Centre on 0845 113 0161 for a form or contact Development Officer Jenny Roberts on 01353 860850 or email [jenny.roberts@camsacre.org.uk](mailto:jenny.roberts@camsacre.org.uk) for further information.

## PRIMARY PTA NEWS

The Primary School Winter Fair was a fantastic start to Christmas. The children (and the grown-ups) loved it! The Fair raised a whopping £2,500. Well done and thank-you to everyone who helped and to those who came along to the fair.

The bonfire night fireworks raised a massive £1,500! A big thank-you again to all who helped and came along. Next years event promises to be just as good if not better...

There will be a Quiz night on February 25 with Quizmaster Pete. The £5 per person entry fee includes food. There will be a bar available.

### Has your computer got you baffled? Want to get back in the driving seat?

- Expert computer tuition in Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc. from beginner to advanced.
- Computer upgrades and repair.
- IT solutions at home or in the workplace.



**Ring Alexander Innes**

**Tel: 01353 - 741948**

**E mail: [innes.alexander@btinternet.com](mailto:innes.alexander@btinternet.com)**

## JOE BALLARD SERVICES

### Small Building Works

Fencing  
Building Maintenance

### Gardening

Hedge Trimming  
Garden Maintenance

Grass Cutting — Lawn Mower or Tractor Mounted

**30 Years Experience**

**Reliability, Fair Prices and Fully Insured**

**Mobile 07831 438507**

## COTTENHAM TYRE & AUTOCENTRE

210 HIGH STREET, COTTENHAM Telephone (01954) 250104  
M.O.T. Work – Body & Paintwork – Welding – Engine Tuning

## SERVICING – TYRES – EXHAUSTS

Batteries – Punctures – Wheel alignment – Autoparts shop  
**'LET YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS DO THE BUSINESS FOR YOU'**

# BIRD REPORT

The winter is often a good time for birders. The trees are bare and we can see things that were hidden by leaves during the summer. I have been surprised to find nests in the garden, some quite close to the house, of which I was totally unaware.

The bird table also provides surprises. I know that magpies are not very popular, but I have enjoyed seeing these handsome birds close to the house. Two pheasants have also been regular visitors and also an occasional jay. Other people have told me of green woodpeckers, great spotted woodpeckers, goldfinches and sparrowhawks in their gardens.

The Long Drove lagoon is always interesting. There were several ducks there recently, including teal and wigeon, and a variety of gulls. The hedges nearby are full of fieldfares, mistle thrushes and redwings.

Down by the river, people have reported short-eared owls, cormorants and a kingfisher. Barn owls have been seen in the late afternoon, and one surprising visitor in Broad Lane was a stonechat.

Waxwings were reported in Ipswich, Norwich and Peterborough but alas these beautiful birds don't seem to have reached Cottenham.

I have recently been given two very good books about birds. One is called "How to be a bad birdwatcher" by the sports writer Simon Barnes. His book is very entertaining and instructive and would appeal to anyone reading this article. It is a lot of fun.

The other book is about folk names for birds. For instance in East Anglia a blue tit is sometimes called a pickcheese, a robin is a Bob or a Bobby, a kestrel is a wind hoverer, a sparrow is a joey spadger and a magpie is a chatterpie. In the North we used to call a sparrow a spuggie. I would be interested to hear of other folk names for common birds. Any offers?

*Jasper Kay*

## SPRING RETURN!

During March (exact date to be finalised in the New Year) the Primary School PTA will be hosting an Auction of Promises. This evening event will be great fun, with a raffle and bar, as well as the varied lots which will be up for grabs. We will have a host of varied lots, from childminding, tickets to local attractions, tutoring and music "taster" sessions and also have some more unusual lots up for auction – programmes will be available from the school nearer the time, and sealed bids are accepted if you are unable to join us on the night!

We are more than happy to welcome lots from anyone interested in helping the primary school, so if you have a skill that you can offer for auction, or know someone else who has, please contact me via e-mail or directly through the school, and I'll let you have more details. If nothing else, come along in March and join in the bidding.

*Jenny Bowles*  
Cottenham Primary School PTA  
*jenny\_bowles@ntlworld.com*  
Tel: 01954 200834



MICROSOFT LINUX  
NETWORK SUPPORT  
MRL  
MRL  
MRL  
The best of both worlds  
T : 01954 252 705  
[www.mrlnetworks.co.uk](http://www.mrlnetworks.co.uk)

**CRYSTAL CLEAR  
WINDOW CLEANING**



Domestic & Commercial · Interior & Exterior · Contracts Welcome

*Member of - N.F.W.W.&G.C.*

**TEL: 01954 205271/200456**  
**MOBILE: 07708 326971**

## TOPS DRIVING SCHOOL



Your local driving school, operating in Cottenham, Cambridge and the surrounding area, with free pick up from home, college or work. We specialise in one-to-one tuition for both the Theory and Practical Tests.

Dual-control cars • Competitive prices • Discount for pre-paid block bookings  
2-hour assessment lesson at reduced rate • Video Drive available in some cars  
Pass Plus registered instructors

Tel: 01954 252239 Mike Bellars DSA.ADI (Car)  
Freephone 0800 458 8300 or mobile 07710 480364

# PARISH COUNCIL

The November & December Council Meetings included the following matters :

**Recreation Ground Play Equipment** – Funding is being sought for the multiplay equipment. Discussions have been held as to where the swings should be resited, and RoSPA are being contacted for advice. Following the RoSPA report earlier in the year some remedial work has been carried out. Additional benches will be provided.

**Moat Area Conservation Tenison Manor** – We are still in negotiation with Persimmon over a number of issues, and are hopeful that we will resolve the outstanding matters very soon. In the meantime we have been talking to a charitable organisation who work alongside Cambridgeshire County Council and English Heritage maintaining heritage sites, of which this is an example. As you may know from previous notes, we will not take over this site until the condition of the area is of an acceptable standard, otherwise it will cost the Council extra money. Of course, we need to make sure that the necessary work is done in the winter prior to the bird nesting season, and the onset of spring with the new growth in the trees, bushes, and vegetation.

**Sports & Social Building** – Initial soundings meetings have been held with the users as regards the need for better facilities, and the consideration as to whether a village hall type of building is what is needed. Further meetings will be held in the new year.

**Traveller Appeals** – We duly gave our evidence at the second week of the hearing in November, and await to hear the Inspector's decision. On the information we have been given this will not be until February at the earliest.

**Parish Plan** – A poster competition is being organised concerning an anti-litter campaign, and the schools in the village have agreed to support it. A local artist, Sue Kafka-Ellis has kindly agreed to judge the entries in February.

**Health & Safety** – We will be formulating a procedure to ensure that all Parish Council property and equipment is checked regularly so that any defects can be quickly rectified. If you feel that attention is needed in respect of any Parish Council property or equipment please contact the Clerk.

## FUN RUN 2005

It's time to get training shoes on and get in condition for the annual fun run to take place on the 7th May 2005. Look out for more details in the next *Newsletter*, otherwise phone 01954 250099 for more information.





**J.KILBORN & SON**  
electrical contractors

traditional service in a modern world

- commercial & domestic electrical contractors
- a family run business since 1949
- new work, extensions and alterations
- NIC EIC periodic inspections  
insurance - rent - safety
- Free quotation
- All work guaranteed

Member of the Electrical Contractors Association  
Approved Contractor

52 High Street Longstanton Cambridge CB4 5BS  
T 01954 780184 F 01954 780575 M 07860 827707

## LEEWAY

PLASTERING AND BUILDING SERVICES  
48 Wilkin Walk, Cottenham, Cambridge

*All aspects of building, plastering and insurance work undertaken*

Alterations • Drainage • Fencing • Patios • Fascias • Soffits •  
Guttering • UPVC Windows • Plastering • Coving • Ceilings •  
Tiling (floor & wall) • Outside Rendering

All work guaranteed – Reliable & Conscientious Service Provided

Phone Paul Now on **01954 251164 (answerphone)**  
**OR 07766 553484 (mobile)**



## HIGHGATE COUNTRY STORE

Over Road, Willingham, Cambridge, CB4 5EU  
Tel. 01954 260798 Fax. 01954 261997  
[www.highgatefarmshop.co.uk](http://www.highgatefarmshop.co.uk)



**NEW AT HIGHGATE**  
GIFT AND CRAFT SHOP  
OPEN NOW  
PLEASE COME AND  
HAVE A LOOK



NOW OPEN  
TEA & COFFEE SHOP



**PET AND ANIMAL FEEDS**  
WIDE RANGE OF QUALITY PET FOOD & ACCESSORIES ETC. AT COMPETITIVE PRICES.  
POINT OF LAY CHICKENS.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR HORSE AND RIDER FROM JODPHURS TO HORSE BEDDING.  
RUTLAND ELECTRIC FENCING

**OPENING TIMES**  
MON-SAT 8.30AM - 5.30PM  
SUN 9.00AM - 4.00PM  
THURS LATE OPENING 7.30PM

# CRICKET CLUB NEWS

In November, the club held its Player of the Year evening at the Curry Palace restaurant, one of the club's major sponsors. It was an excellent evening and turned out to be the best-attended event for a long time with nearly fifty players, sponsors and supporters present. The venue fed us superbly, as always!! Chairman Nigel Lawrence welcomed everyone and gave a summary of the season, congratulating all the players on their efforts.

Ben Lawrence claimed the 1st XI Player of the Year trophy, his 31 wickets as opening bowler making a major, if not the major, contribution to the team securing Senior 2 status in a difficult season. He missed only three games, two through injury, and showed real aggression all summer. The 2nd XI trophy went to John White, not just for his bowling but also, as one of the few really experienced players, for his all-round contribution to the team's success. The 3rd XI award was won by Graham Eke principally for his consistent batting, his 265 runs putting him at the top of the averages. Mark Bird, who has played for the club for many years now, won the Most Improved Cricketer award for the increased concentration and resilience he displayed in his batting for the 1st XI which included an excellent fifty against the champions, NCI. He also took some superb catches in the field. The Young Player of the Year trophy went to Andrew Cosgrove who graduated to the 2nd XI and showed some real promise with the bat. The Junior Player award was won by Chris Brown, another in the line of youngsters coming through the Youth teams under the guidance of Mick Dean. Fielder's Cups were awarded to Tom Colquhoun (1st XI), Liam Brett (2nd XI) and Daniel Parrott (3rd XI). The Clubman of the Year trophy went to Vice-Chairman Dave Partridge for his dedicated efforts for the club in recent seasons.

By the time you are reading this, the club will either have held, or be about to hold, its AGM. Also, even though it may still be cold and miserable, the senior teams will be getting ready to start their preparations for the 2005 season with regular indoor nets – please contact Nigel or Dave on the numbers below for details. If you are new to the area and interested in coming along, please get in touch – you really will be very welcome. All young players interested in playing for one of the junior teams should contact Mick (number below). We say this quite regularly but the club has come a long way in a short time and we really do need the support and encouragement of all cricketers in the village to ensure that Cottenham Cricket Club is able to sustain both the progress we have made and the opportunity to play this great game at a decent level – not just for the current group of players but, equally importantly, for future generations of the village. There was a time, not so long ago, when good local cricketers had to move on to play cricket at Senior League level. This is no longer the case and we can say to any of our players, both young and old(er), 'if you can do the business, the route to the 1st team is there for everyone'. So please keep spreading the word!!

*Nigel Lawrence (Chairman) (01954) 251054; Dave Partridge (Vice-Chairman) (01954) 203210; Mick Dean (Youth teams) (01954) 250037*



## R.S. MEMORIALS

*Monumental Stonemason  
Memorial Specialist*

Tel: (01954) 261454 Fax: (01954) 261454

## WILLINGHAM FUNERAL SERVICE

*Sympathetic and Discreet Personal Service  
Day or Night*

*Private Chapel of Rest*

Tel: (01954) 261999 Fax: (01954) 261454

**BERRYCROFT, WILLINGHAM**



## STOP SMOKING ONE SESSION

### CLINICAL HYPNOSIS

*Caroline Julia O'Connell*  
BSCH(Affil) LNCP Dip PHTA

Sensitive help with other issues

**01353 749677**

Registered Psychotherapist, Hypnotherapist, Counsellor

# COTTENHAM & District Sports Centre

Providing leisure facilities for the community of Cottenham and the surrounding district.

### Facilities

- \* Multi-purpose Sports Hall
- \* Gymnasium
- \* Floodlit Multi-sport Areas (macadam)
- \* Grass Pitches: Football & Cricket
- \* Indoor Cricket Nets

### Children's Activities

- \* Children's Sport Birthday Parties:  
(Trampoline, Football, Roller skating, Party Room)
- \* Holiday Activity Programmes:  
(Summer, Easter, Christmas & Half Term)

### Fitness Suite

- \* No signing on fee. Members & non-members prices.
- \* Cardiovascular Machines, Resistance Weight Machines & Free Weights.
- \* Induction Classes & Fitness Consultations available.
- \* Male & Female Circuit Training

*All Facilities Available for Casual and Block Hire.*

*For further details please call:*

Tel: **01954 288760** Email: [jliver02@aol.com](mailto:jliver02@aol.com)

Cottenham & District Sports Centre  
High Street, Cottenham, Cambs. CB4 8UA



# SOFA

It's that time of year again! Christmas is over, sales fever has been and gone and it's time to clear out all the clutter! What will you be doing with all those unwanted gifts or all those items you have replaced over the Christmas and sales period? Many of your unwanted items could be reused by one of the many community and voluntary groups in Cambridgeshire helping those most in need.

Cambridge SOFA is one such local charity providing affordable furniture and electrical items to those most in need within the community. Our customers include young families, pensioners and those being re-housed after a spell of homelessness.

You can help the environment and our customers by thinking of SOFA each time you have something you no longer need. Is that item you are about to throw away of any value to someone else? Before driving it to the nearest landfill site give SOFA a ring. We will ask a few questions to ascertain whether it's something that our client group need and then, providing you are within our collection area we will arrange to collect it from you free of charge.

If we can't collect it we can give you the details of other organisations that may be able to help. Landfill should only be considered as a last resort!

We need working electrical appliances, household furniture, bedding, curtains and bric-a-brac. We collect from across the City, most of South Cambs, Saffron Walden and Haverhill.

We are open Monday to Friday 10:00am – 3:00pm. We are not open to the general public. Those buying from us must be in receipt of benefits or on a low income.

For more information on donating goods or becoming a customer call us on 01223 576535, email us on [recycle@cambridgesofa.org.uk](mailto:recycle@cambridgesofa.org.uk) or drop in and see us at Unit H, The Paddocks, 347 Cherry Hinton Rd, Cambridge. For further details on what we can and can't take check out our web site [www.cambridgesofa.org.uk](http://www.cambridgesofa.org.uk).

## TOM CALLAGHAN

It was with great sadness that I heard of the death, in December, of Tom Callaghan. Tom first contacted me in his capacity as secretary of the Cottenham Club (the Conservative Club as was). His convivial presence was, for many years, a key feature of that club.

However, it was as an amazingly accurate proof reader that I dealt with Tom over the last three years. His daughter Siobhan recently told me that he found three errors in the language pedant's bible: *Eats shoots and leaves* by Lynn Truss.

He was a key member of the team of three proof-readers that have helped to keep the *Cottenham Newsletter*, if not free of spelling and grammatical errors, certainly much less sparsely populated with them than would otherwise be the case. He will be missed.

I would like to extend my condolences to his family.

*Eddie Murphy*

### Kevin Ashworth



Corgi Registered Plumbing and Heating Engineer

Gas Boilers Serviced,  
Radiator Valves Updated  
Bathrooms & Showers  
Fitted & Resealed  
Lofts & Tanks Insulated

**Tel: 01954 203815 • Mobile: 07980 668809**

# Tylers

Independent and Local Estate Agents

Free Market Appraisals  
19 High Street • Histon • Cambridge • CB4 9JD  
Tel: (01223) 235111

[www.tylers.net](http://www.tylers.net) [histon@tylers.net](mailto:histon@tylers.net)

## Clements Hardware

136 High Street • Cottenham • Tel: 206356

For all your everyday needs;

Garden & Timber Products

Pet Foods

Ironmongery & Tools

Electrical Goods

Paint & D.I.Y.

and much much more.....

*Come in and see us, we'll be pleased to help you*



# HONK!

For their December production this year, Cottenham Theatre Workshop broke with tradition. Instead of a home-made Pantomime they presented a musical by George Stiles and Anthony Drew, which won the Olivier Best Musical Award in 2000.

HONK is based on the story of the Ugly Duckling and proves to be a most entertaining musical. CTW's move was a great success.

The production requires a large cast and it was good to see a number of well-known local actors giving their usual professional performance. But it was even better to welcome two new actors who gave a real boost to the standard of the show. Their singing, stage movement, clarity of diction and stage presence made a real difference.

Elsewhere there was a lot of fun. The story gives plenty of scope to the portrayal of animals on stage and much credit must go to the team which produced such effective costumes. The songs are good in this musical and the cast did really well to overcome some of the technical difficulties in the music.

The scenery too added greatly to this colourful production, which moved at a speedy pace.

We are used to very high standards in CTW productions and this was no exception, but I am going to allow myself this time to voice two minor criticisms. Firstly the balance between singers and the band was not always right so that we in the audience could not always hear the words of the song. Secondly younger members of the cast must remember that they must be acting the whole time that they are on the stage. Occasionally a few people lost concentration and this is distracting for the audience.

Nevertheless, this did not detract from our enjoyment of this lovely show. It was a wonderful evening out and a perfect run-up to Christmas. Thank you once again, CTW, for entertaining us so well.

*Jasper Kay*

# MONTESSORI

On a walk around the village on a weekday morning you may have noticed a group of children playing in the driveway of the Methodist Church hall, opposite the Co-op. These are children of Stepping Stones Montessori.

We have been running very successfully for nearly eight years, providing pre-school education for children from the village and beyond. We have recently undergone a successful accreditation by Montessori Education UK. We believe that we are one of the first Montessori schools in Cambridgeshire to be awarded this certificate. Unfortunately, without your help we may be forced to close at the end of the summer term (July 2005).

The situation is that some staff will be leaving after the summer term and, although there are several qualified applicants that would like to join us, all new staff require full time positions. Extending our hours to full time is also in line with our ambitions and required by many parents, but that will sadly not be possible at our present location.

Stepping Stones Montessori is thus urgently looking for new premises in Cottenham. New premises would allow us to open full time, recruit new staff and (hopefully) allow the children better facilities for outdoor play. Such premises could be an existing building that could be converted to a pre-school or a piece of land that could be built on.

If you feel that there is any way you could help in identifying such premises, please contact Amanda Sandberg on (01954) 251920.

❖  
**JOHN ROGERS**  
❖

GENERAL WORK · GARDEN MAINTENANCE  
& FENCING

❖  
TELEPHONE:  
07834 068295  
❖

## P.S. Gas, Heating and Plumbing



All types of standard and combination boiler installation, service and repair



Gas fire installation, service and repair

Landlord Certificates and safety checks



**Peter Nightingale**  
British Gas trained + 25 years experience



01954 789218 or 07962 012579

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

***Ralph's Workshop***

Unit 11, Watson's Yard  
Cottenham

Tel: (01954) 250502

**MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICING  
AND REPAIRS**

**M.O.T. WORK**

## Reflections... – by Moyra A. Borg

I lost my dear old silver tabby cat Jade in October. She had a bleed in the head shortly after three of her teeth had been extracted. The poor old girlie faded fast and had to be put to sleep. She was nineteen and a half. I still miss her. Since I lost Jade, I've been offered a lot of kittens, old cats and cats of all ages, but there has to be a time to grieve. Each cat is an individual and can never be replaced. The mere thought of having a clone of my old cat is despicable. It is not an animal's (or person's) physical body that we make friends with; it is their character and persona.

\*\*\*

When one's short-term memory is faulty it can really shake one's confidence. One learns to be determined that it must not be shaken as much as people would like it to be shaken. The world can be a very cruel place. People accuse one of not listening to them and tease one about 'Groundhog Day' and they think that it is funny to do so. 'The wheel she turn!' my father always used to say. I think he meant 'What goes around comes around.' One day they may have memory problems and then they will realise what that means.

Having a poor short-term memory does not mean that a person is stupid. A person can have a high I.Q. and a terrible short-term memory. The memory section is only one section of the brain. I sometimes think that we lose what we are most proud of. I used to have an excellent memory. I can still remember some recent things very clearly and have no trouble with memories from long ago.

Short-term memory is a different department. I feel empathetic towards people with all sorts of problems, especially poor short-term memory. I still feel a blank sort of ache in my head, which is not painful but is very blank, since my brain haemorrhage seven and a half years ago. I am, on paper, termed 'disabled' at work, a term I detest. I work under the Papworth Trust Workstep Scheme.

This is because I was not deemed fast enough for the job. What a bitter pill to swallow. My working hours were cut to half normal hours over a year ago and so was my pay. I have had to accept that I no longer have the energy to work full time. However, because I work and earn a certain amount each week I am unable to receive help from any quarter towards bills and living expenses. This is my disability. Great!

For over two years now I have had help from a brilliant and unbelievably patient occupational therapist. I am a very stubborn creature and difficult to manage. She has had to discharge me because she has helped me for two years and she was only supposed to help in acute cases. Does that mean that I am chronic? I hate to think that I am in need of any help at all, however she feels that I still need help with organising my life as I live in a horrendous muddle.

I do not fit into anyone's category to be helped because my problems in life are mainly 'cognitive', a word few people seem familiar with and even fewer understand. I had to help the man at the desk in the Department of Health and Social Security to spell this word. Still the brain haemorrhage has left me with frontal lobe damage making me feel 'irrationally happy' as it says in my medical records. Waa hey!

## NEW YEAR – NEW CHANCES

How many times have we resolved to change our lives in the New Year? And given up before the end of January?

Nothing new in that. I have every sympathy with those who don't manage to improve their lifestyles. I can't remember how many times I've resolved to slim – and here I am, years later, still trying. All a matter of self-control I'm told.

Well, I guess in that direction I must be pretty weak. And now that we hear that chocolate helps to prevent coughs and that prevention is better than cure I've found the excuse I need!

Joking apart, getting out into the community does enliven the spirit so, once again, I'm inviting you to the WI.

The February meeting is a talk with slides on 'North to Alaska' which may spur us on to think of holidays for the future – or just to enjoy seeing images of snow and ice which I hope (writing early in December) will be thicker and colder than anything we see here.

We meet 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30 at CVC – just come along.

*Brenda Ward*

**ROOFING  
PROBLEMS?**

**CALL YOUR  
LOCAL ROOFING Co.**

**G.B. ROOFING**

**Quality Roofing at Competitive Prices**

**FLAT ROOFING SPECIALISTS**

**FREE ESTIMATES**

**117 High Street, Cottenham**

**Tel No: 01954 251946**

**Mobile No: 07889 439675**

# FOOTPATH GROUP WALKS 2005

All are welcome to join our walks and find out more about our activities. Please note the dates in your diary and confirm with the walk leader at least ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE. Arrangements may have changed and the leaders do not like walking on their own!

**Sat 29 Jan.** Meet at Cottenham Church, 9:30am, for a morning walk, followed by soup at 85 High Street. Names please to Jasper (01954 250485). This will be followed by a meeting at No 85 to discuss footpath maintenance.

**Sat 12 Mar.** Meet in Car Park, Swaffham Prior (signposted to the Left 100 yards past Red Lion pub, narrow track entrance) 10:00am. Bring a packed lunch, possible pub stop on this 8/9 mile walk around some East Cambridgeshire Fens. Contact Mike (01954 250014).

**Sat 2 April.** Meet at The Reading Room, Fox St., Great Gransden for a 10:00am start. Bring a packed lunch, possible pub stop on this 10 mile 'Blue Bell' walk. Takes in Abbotsley & Croxton villages. Tea & cakes at No 4 on completion. Contact Keith (01767 679999).

**Sat 30 April.** Christian Aid Charity Walk to the highest point in Suffolk, near Depden east of Newmarket. It is hoped that Cottenham churches will join in. Approximately 10 miles, but shorter options possible. Families welcome. Full details available in March from Jasper (01954 250485).

**Fri 13 – Sun 15 May.** Walking weekend in the Derbyshire Peaks staying in Ravenstor Youth Hostel. Contact David (01954 200074).

**Sat 11 June.** Meet at Cottenham Village College at 9:30am to arrange car sharing, or at Wimpole Hall car park at 10:00am for an 8–10 mile walk. Bring a packed lunch. Contact Ray (01954 205262).

**Sat 16 July.** John & Sheila are taking us on a 'Mystery Tour'. Only clue is 'meet at Steeple Morden Church at 10:00am' (You may learn more by ringing 01223 234823).

**1 – 5 Aug.** Summer School walks programme. A week of 'Walking in the Fens and beyond', led by Jasper. Details

from Cottenham Village College (01954 288751).

**Sat 10 Sep.** Another Ouse Valley Ramble of about 10 miles. Meet at Godmanchester Church at 10:00am. Bring a packed lunch, there may be a pub stop. Contact Ian & Ann (01223 514135).

**Fri 14 – Sun 16 Oct.** Walking weekend, destination to be confirmed. Contact David (01954 200074).

**Sat 5 Nov.** Fulbourn Nature Reserve to Balsham about 10 miles. Meet at Fulbourn Church at 10:00am. Possible pub lunch. Contact Anthea (01223 248897).

**Mon 26 Dec.** 'Holly Walk'. The traditional Boxing Day walk of about 4 miles, suitable for all. Meet at the High St. / Broad Lane junction at 10:30am.

---

## VILLAGE DESIGN GROUP

The Village Design Group is holding a meeting on Cambourne and whether there are lessons for Northstowe on Tuesday 22 February at 7:30pm in the lecture room, Cottenham Village College.

There will be two speakers Jane Green and Rob Mungoven from South Cambs District Council. Jane will focus on the buildings environment while Rob will highlight some successes in the natural environment at Cambourne. Both will link this into planning at Northstowe.

After their talks, refreshments will be available followed by the Design Group's AGM. Everyone is welcome and admission is free. This date does not clash with Shrove Tuesday, half term or a Parish Council meeting! So do come along. At the time of writing this paragraph, Northstowe is in the news again because of delays in upgrading the A14. Find out more about Northstowe from SCDC and the developers rather than the press.

*Jennie Blood Smyth*  
Secretary  
Cottenham Village Design Group

### CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SPECIALISTS AND CARPET FITTING SERVICE

JEFF HUNT

4 LONG FURLONG, OVER, CAMBRIDGE CB4 5PG

Tel: 01954 231082 anytime

Fax: 01954 232349 Email: [margaret@jmcarpetcare.com](mailto:margaret@jmcarpetcare.com)



# P A D S



Painting and Decorating Service

Interior

Exterior

Coving

Artex

Free estimates and advice

Tel Cottenham 251366

# RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

As the world mourns the tens of thousands lost to tsunami, it may appear misplaced to continue complaining against the District Council we are obliged to acknowledge as 'ours'. To be fair it is not so much the Councillors as the Officers and one officer in particular, the legal adviser Mr Chris Taylor, whose chosen course of action is, once again, mind boggling!

This is the man who advised the council that injunctive action against the Cottenham Travellers in 2003 was 'inappropriate'. Then Cllrs. Collinson & Nicholas honestly accepted, and defended, this stance but only weeks after they stood down policy changed as injunctions were sought and injunctive action became, it seems, 'appropriate'. District Councillors talked tough about impending direct action but, though no doubt genuine, they, too, were out of touch with legal reality. We were reminded by Traveller counsel at the Inquiry that direct action is inflammatory and, while SCDC has 'nowhere else for travellers to go', it will be unlikely to be permitted by the Courts.

Even a win at the appeals could still leave Cottenham with a 'super-site' and Mr Taylor knows this! He is fully aware that unless he, and the Council, make a genuine effort to either prevent further unlawful traveller development and/or facilitate lawful resettlement elsewhere in the District then the 'absence of anywhere else to go' may still go against this village. It would come as no surprise to learn that Mr Taylor was covertly an advocate of an over-sized travellers' site in Cottenham. But his latest ploy has been to orchestrate the issuing of an Enforcement Notice on Ms Joanna Gordon-

Clarke for the removal of traveller caravans on a part of her one acre of land on Smithy Fen.

For years Joanna sought SCDC assistance to prevent encroachment by the English Gypsies – much more recently she made a request that SCDC help reclaim her land from the Travellers that commenced its occupation in 2003. Instead of 'help' she is served with this planning contravention notice and an explanation that such is the only way of giving legal weight to the notices also served on the Travellers.

That Mr Taylor will be technically correct in planning terms is not disputed, BUT under section 77 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 SCDC has the power to direct unauthorised campers to leave land. Just as Mr Taylor failed this village in 2003 by refusing it protection under section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, so he has now failed Ms Clarke (at the time of writing) by refusing to invoke lawful powers to protect her land!

The table on the next page shows how the village responded to the recent flyer/questionnaire. We would ask the District Councillors (Jackie Dixon, Simon Edwards, Tim Wotherspoon) to take the message back to Council together with a request that they demand explanations from Mr Taylor on the following. Why has Ms Gordon-Clarke not been afforded the protection due under section 77 of The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act? Why was this village not given due protection under section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act? Why

*continued on next page*

## AA – The Driving School

**Justin Hiscock**  
Approved Driving Instructor

Novice, Pass Plus, Refresher & Theory Test Training

Phone: Home: 01954 250894

Mobile: 07808 645970

E-mail: justin7@tesco.net

## COOPER

**Paving & Building Services**

[www.cooperservices.co.uk](http://www.cooperservices.co.uk)

- Driveways, Carparks, Courtyards, Patios, Paths
- Block Paving Repair & Refurbishment
- Slabwork, Fencing, Timber Decking
- Carports, Pergolas, Steel Archways
- Groundwork, Drainage, Ornate Walling
- Free Estimates & Design

Telephone Ben Cooper on  
Cottenham 01954 202486 Mobile 07786 313989  
Email: ben@cooperservices.co.uk

## B & C Motors Ltd

Is your car due for an MOT or Service or just not running right?  
Then visit your friendly local garage

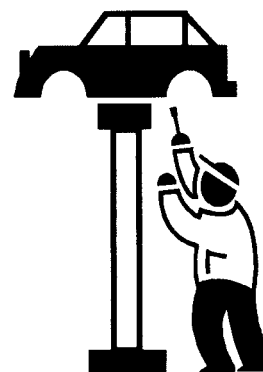
**MOT – Servicing – Repairs – Tyres – Exhausts – Air Conditioning**

Free collection / delivery service to all our Cottenham Customers

**Free courtesy cars available upon request**

**62/64 High Street, Cottenham**

**Telephone (01954) 251012** [www.bandcmotors.co.uk](http://www.bandcmotors.co.uk)



continued from previous page

was injunctive action 'inappropriate' in 2003 but 'appropriate' in 2004, when nothing had changed save that the Travellers had been given longer to entrench? Why has the SCDC deliberately ignored all Government guidance on how to provide for needy Gypsies & Travellers, thereby causing, and condoning, the distress to this village?

It is time for the whole truth! As we await the outcome of the November inquiry and prepare for the new appeals (a further 70 or more are possible) we want to assess properly the fol-

lowing: how well are we represented? the extent to which we may rely on a 'new and improved' SCDC approach to Gypsy & Traveller accommodation? the continuing 'need' for this Residents Association?

At the request of the Committee I remain as Chairman until the ODPM decision on the November Inquiry is known (probably in March). That decision will determine the need for any change of strategy.

Rick Bristow

Question		Yes	No	Other
1	Do you continue to object to any further expansion of the Smithy Fen Traveller site?	99%	1%	
2	Having read the 'Guide to Land Swap' do you understand its importance in resolving Cottenham's traveller issues?	94%	5%	1%
3	With 2000 homeless Gypsies & Travellers and less than 1000 acres nationwide needed to solve their problem should Government	91%	5%	4%
	a Direct local authorities toward providing accommodation? b Ensure that each County provide its fair share of sites?	96%	3%	1%
4	Would we get better value for our money if SCDC used the £350,000 set aside for evictions and litigation on providing appropriate land for Gypsies & Travellers to buy or rent?	88%	10%	1%
5	SCDC plans to double its precept in order to maintain its current level of service. Do you feel any increase over & above the rate of inflation can be justified?	10%	88%	1%

## TSUNAMI DISASTER

Many thanks to all donations received from Cottenham residents, over 1000 boxes delivered to Sri Lanka Social & Cultural Organisation in Letchworth on Friday 7 January. What can do you do next?

- Sponsor an orphaned child for just £5.00 per month
- Raise funds towards costs of containers to ship goods to Sri Lanka/Indonesia

Rev Akurala Samitha is desperate to raise funds for the orphaned children of all faiths and cultures in Sri Lanka. Donations will go towards building an orphanage for the children that now have only temporary shelter.

Contact: Jacky Dixon, cllr.Dixon@scambs.gov.uk or Julie Groves, Julie.groves@ntlworld.com or email lechworthdhamma@ntlworld.com for details.

### YOGA

**COTTENHAM & GIRTON  
CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS  
AND FOR IMPROVERS.**  
Evenings – Tuesday (Cott)  
Wednesday ('Physic')  
& Thursday (Cott)  
Daytime – Tuesday am (Cott)

**FOR DETAILS RING  
Denise Sibley-Moore BScDipBWY  
01954 205374**



### CHIMNEY SWEEP

**J. L. WIGHT**

Guild of Master Sweeps

Fully Insured

Certificates issued

Advice given / problems solved



**01954 210608**

10 Cambridge Rd. Coton



## Beat the Morning City Traffic Jams

Call at your Cottenham Branch for all your building materials!

**Marshalls Stockist • Decorating Centre • New Landscaping Centre  
• Kitchen & Bathroom Showroom • Timber & Joinery**

50 High Street, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire. CB4 8SA Fax: 01954 251864 Email: cottenham@travisperkins.co.uk

For further details, please call on telephone:

# 01954 250447

# NEW YEAR FARMING

January is a good month to re-access achievement. On average at least 50% of sales from the 2004 harvest have been made, giving confidence in estimated crop tonnages and prices likely to be achieved, and the first assessments of the potential for the 2005 harvest can be made for the autumn-planted crops.

Fortunately, the autumn-planted crops of oilseed rape, barley and wheat look well, with few gaps between the plant, or difficult weed problems. So far so good – virtually everything looks vigorous and there is nothing to inhibit yield potential, yet.

Herbicide has now been applied to all these crops with the objective of controlling the dreaded blackgrass, a plant capable of producing over 5,000 seeds. In oilseed rape the objective is also to control cereals growing from seed shed during the last harvest. The weeds fight for the same moisture, light and space as the crop, reducing the crop yield. Most of these weeds emerge around November. While it is possible to plant the cereals (wheat and barley) later to avoid the worst of the weed problems, there is consequently less time for the crops to harvest the light and therefore yields are usually much lower. Furthermore, oilseed rape planted later is unlikely to survive the winter. Planting crops in the wetter conditions also increases the risk of damaging the soil.

The big threat to the oilseed rape is pigeon grazing. While the crop is not their favourite food source, it can be completely destroyed over winter. Flocks of over 100 birds are common, and if the plants are small a beakful can destroy the plant. With a target population of perhaps only 40 plants per square metre, a few days' grazing can leave little left. The need to chase the pigeons off at dawn, dusk and around mid-day slightly disrupts the farmers' day, never mind any thoughts of a few days off.

The crop just peeping through the ground with the rounder leaves is winter beans. Beans are often just spread on the surface and then ploughed under the ground. They are quite capable of emerging from 20cm down, unlike the other crops where 2–3cm is deep enough.

Drier days, or where the frost penetrates, provides opportunity for the last of the ploughing, where crops such as sugar beet and potatoes have been harvested late in the year. On the heavier soil around Cottenham there is no doubt that ploughing needs to be done well ahead of the spring to provide the best chance for the spring crops to thrive. However, this has the other environmental consequence of burying the grain spilt at harvest, which reduced the feed available to birds.

It is an interesting thought that modern large tractors often do less damage to the soil than the smaller tractors in the past. This is because tractor tyres are designed a little like snow shoes to spread the weight over a considerable area, leaving a very low pressure per unit area and little imprint on the soil. The extreme example of this is, of course, the tracked tractor.

Another worry is grain storage. By January any crop that has not been stored carefully will have begun to deteriorate. Most local farms have at least some grain stored on farm (perhaps 500 or more tonnes) while some is stored in farmer co-operatives at Wimblington or Linton. Growing hygiene demands from consumers increasingly reduces bird access to grain stores and the loss of a winter food source for birds. This is understandable, but remember that the grain is outside in the fields for most of the year.

Grain needs to be dry and cool to prevent deterioration. This is usually achieved by blowing warmed air (warm air will hold more moisture than cold air) through the stored crop to reduce the moisture and cold air to cool it, if necessary. To get cereal moisture down below 15% and oilseed rape below 9% is a struggle. The first signs of problems are usually a musty smell and hot patches in the heaps of grain. Closer examination will often reveal colonies of insects. Even slight problems will cause rejection by the millers.

It is a concern when even the *Financial Times* feels the need to run an article on the lack of farmer response to the changing CAP rules that officially came into force on the 1st January. These changes are by far the most radical reform of

*continued on next page*



King George's Playing fields,  
Lambs Lane,  
Cottenham  
Tel: 01954 250891  
Web site: [www.ladybirdpreschool.org](http://www.ladybirdpreschool.org)  
Email: [enquiries@ladybirdpreschool.org](mailto:enquiries@ladybirdpreschool.org)

Ofsted Approved

Registered Charity

As a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance we provide high quality childcare at competitive rates. Various sessions available for children aged 2 to 5 years.

Parent/Carer & child sessions from birth.  
Registered for day care from 9am to 3pm for children 3 years and older.

Principal: Rosemary Miller BA Hons

Chairperson: Siobhan Lihoreau

*continued on next page*

my working life and have big implications for most farms but it is difficult to see anything different locally.

The terrible tsunami disaster will have implications for agriculture in the area. While we are all attempting to help to deal with the short term problems of shelter, disease, water and food, there will be longer term implications where the salt water has damaged the soil structure and contaminated irrigation sources. Salt water destroys soil structure and is poisonous to most crops. It will probably take 10 or more years for some of the land to recover, although applications of lime can speed up the process. The damage is not to major food producing areas, but the loss of crop, soil and contamination will be literally a matter of life and death, for those in affected regions.

*Couch Grass*

## CAM SIGHT

In July 2002 Cam Sight started a monthly group for local people with eye problems in Cottenham. It all started in the Cottenham library but after a few months we outgrew the venue and moved to the community room at Franklin Gardens. The group has grown and prospered.

Often people have difficulty getting advice, information and help, especially with respect to travel. We are able to help people access up to date advice, information and equipment needs through rural groups being set up in villages. Through the meetings of these groups we can offer a warm welcome, entertainment, friendship and the chance to discuss concerns and provide help. Talks, quizzes and trips are part of the afternoon along with lots of chatter and refreshments.

Thanks to the Warden at Franklin Gardens, Care Car and local volunteers we are able to enjoy the "4th Thursday in the month" meetings, in Cottenham between 2:00 and 4:00pm.

In conjunction with Camread volunteers, Cottenham News and Cam Sight we can now offer the *Newsletter* via tape. If you would like to try this service or join our group as a member or volunteer please call Julie on 01223 420033.

## Your local branch of the Cambridge.

236 High Street Cottenham Cambridge CB4 8RZ Tel 01954 287535

21 branches in and around Cambridge

**CAMBRIDGE**  
BUILDING SOCIETY

The building society that belongs to you

Head Office Administration Centre PO Box 232 51 Newmarket Rd Cambridge CB5 8FF  
[www.cambridgebs.co.uk](http://www.cambridgebs.co.uk)

## CARECARS 2005

In January 2005, Cottenham Carecars is ten years old! As we do about 12,000 miles a year, this means we have probably travelled between 120,000–150,000 miles – or almost six times around the world! Most journeys are within the village so this is a really remarkable achievement. So, a very sincere 'Thank you' to all our past and present volunteer drivers. Well done to all of you for being so public-spirited and for turning out in all weathers. Our 'customers' are always telling me how much they appreciate the lifts, the conversation and the care you all take to make going out a safe and enjoyable experience for them, some of whom would be housebound without our help.

We haven't put up our fares for a few years now and, as petrol and insurance prices continue to rise, we have decided that from January 1st 2005, the minimum fare rises from 60p to 70p and the mileage rate is increased to 23p.

We used to have about 25 drivers but, for one reason or another, this is now down to 20 and occasionally I have to turn down requests for lifts as nobody is available. I know 20 drivers sounds a lot, but eight are still working most of the time and all have active social lives of their own. Taking into account sickness and holidays, you can see the problem. So if anybody could spare half an hour occasionally to help out as a driver, please contact Keith Evers (01954 250569) or myself (01954 251837). Drivers just need the use of a road-legal car and receive 37p a mile to cover their costs.

I hope all our drivers and customers have a healthy and happy 2005.

*Barbara Ashton-Reader, Co-ordinator*

## N. J. Parker

(CGU Dist.)

### Painter and Decorator

Est. 1982

FREE & WRITTEN ESTIMATES:

TEL: COTTENHAM 251553 OR

NICK: 07929 589925 • GREG: 07980 343186

E MAIL: [COMMIEPAINTER@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:COMMIEPAINTER@HOTMAIL.COM)

BOOK NOW FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER & EARLY '05

**Spiral Business Services**

ACCOUNTANCY & BUSINESS SUPPORT

- Sole trader accounts and tax returns
- Business start-ups and company formations
- Bookkeeping for all forms of business
- Management Accounts
- Payroll
- VAT registration, advice and returns
- Taxation services for businesses and individuals
- Company secretarial services

Phone: Peter on 01954 251 270

Email: [enquiries@spiralbusiness.com](mailto:enquiries@spiralbusiness.com)

Visit: [www.spiralbusiness.com](http://www.spiralbusiness.com)

SENIOR CITIZENS: Tuesday & Wednesday

CLOSED MONDAY

**Sarah Jane Hairdressing**  
131 High St. Cottenham  
Telephone **250170**

## CHURCH END CARPET & VINYL CENTRE

76 High Street, Cottenham  
Tel: 250287 Fax: 206287

A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS OFFERING  
QUALITY CARPETS AND VINYL  
AT HIGHLY COMPETITIVE PRICES WITH  
QUALITY SERVICE AND FITTING

OPEN:- MON., TUES., WED., FRI., SAT.  
10.00 A.M. - 6.00 P.M.  
CLOSED THURSDAYS



### COUNTY FRAMES of Cottenham (we are not the shop on the High Street!)

If you: Know what you want – we can make it reality  
Need inspiration and ideas – we can help  
Want something different – no problem  
Need it in a hurry – we can oblige

*Our customers come back to us time after time.* Just ring for an appointment to visit our workshop in Harlestones Road, Cottenham, (just off Lamb's Lane). We are open when the rest are closed – appointments available evenings and weekends!

**Tel: 01954 251666 or Mobile: 07767 324959**

### Competitive prices, personal service and professional results for all types of framing work

Large range of modern and traditional mouldings

## CAMBRIDGE CABINET MAKERS

New on the floor ...



Open Monday – Saturday 9am-5pm



### Traditionally crafted furniture

- displayed in room settings in large showrooms
- custom made service available
- solid oak, ash, beech, cherry, pine and more
- choice of finish and colour-matching service
- extensive own modern and traditional collections
- gifts and home accessories

105 High St, Cottenham, Cambridge  
www.cambridgecabinetmakers.co.uk

(01954) 250122



# LETTERS to the Editors

## Dear Friends

Happy New Year and Thank you.

We are alive and well, having survived the tsunami. We thought that as you may have known of our holiday in Phuket, you would like to know that we are among the lucky ones. We had already had several fascinating days in Bangkok and a few lovely days in Phuket with our son Chris and his girlfriend Claire Julian, also from Cottenham. We were all together on Boxing Day when the tidal wave struck. We are all fine, and extremely lucky to be alive.

We had checked out of our hotel on Phuket and had caught a boat to Phi Phi on Boxing Day morning, intending to stay there for the next three days. The boat arrived in the main Phi Phi bay, where we were to snorkel and have lunch. Two long-tail boats had already set off with the first set of passengers to disembark on the beach. We were in the queue for the next longtail, when I looked at the beach again and to my amazement it had disappeared. We looked again and the sunshades and some of the beach huts had also gone. The ship's crew were clearly alarmed and no-one seemed able to understand what we were witnessing. Our longtail boat had great difficulty in coming alongside our ship and after three attempts gave up. The first two longtails thankfully returned to the ship with all their passengers. The main beach on Phi Phi, further over to our left, had also disappeared under water, and then we saw a reflective wave coming towards us. Both our ship and many others in the bay moved away rapidly, and a longtail boat successfully avoided it by going at full throttle. We also saw water pouring through a gap between two pieces of higher ground. We later learnt that the wave had gone from one beach, right across the narrow strip of land and onto the other beach on the opposite side. At no time did we actually feel a wave as such – it just seemed that the water level rose. The weather was hot, sunny and still; there was no wind or noise.

As you can imagine we all felt scared, and very worried about those on the beach. It was 10:30am and no doubt many people were already swimming or sunbathing. There were many hotels and restaurants in this very flat part of the island, which would not have had any warning of danger.

Our ship stayed in the bay until about 2:00pm. Very little information was given, but we all put on life vests. The captain said that another wave was expected and that it would be safer to disembark and run up the hill. Unfortunately as we queued to get on longtails, Chris became separated from us, and went to the island. Mike, Claire and I followed in the next longtail, but after only about 100 metres Claire noticed that all the crew and passengers on the ship were waving to us and beckoning us back. We returned to the ship, even more scared. Chris was on the beach, and did not want to go up the hill until we arrived. He couldn't see what had happened to our longtail. Some crew members then went ashore themselves and collected Chris and a couple of others and brought them back to the ship. What a relief! Chris said the

beach was strewn with broken glass from beer bottles scattered when the wave hit the restaurant. We all felt so helpless and scared. The sea was covered in debris: tables, chairs, plants. The passengers who were already on the island had spread about on the hill and had to be rounded up and brought back to the ship, which took about an hour, but thankfully they did all return safely, except for one family which refused to go back and stayed on the island without any luggage. We returned to Phuket, docking at a deep-water port, as the main harbour was damaged.

We were safe again, and feeling incredibly fortunate. Our tale is tame compared to most. We didn't even get our feet wet, but we witnessed an appalling event. Of course we have been thinking of "What if". What if the ship had been on time? (It was a few minutes late leaving Phuket). Would we have already been on the beach when the wave arrived? What if we had decided to take a later ferry; we would have been leaving our Phuket hotel just as the wave hit there.

We did not know if ships would go to Phi Phi (which had been badly damaged and we already knew had suffered quite a few deaths) the next day and so decided not to return to Phi Phi. We thought the island did not really need more tourists. Chris and Claire suggested going to Khoa Sok National Park, about 100 miles further north, and well away from the coast. They had been there just before we met them and it was lovely. So we ended our trip in a rather more relaxed manner.

Chris and Claire are continuing their travels and plan to fly to Australia soon.

Mike and I flew home, as planned, from Phuket and Bangkok. Phuket airport was a sad place, with posters of missing people on the walls and anxious travellers using the internet, trying to trace friends and family.

Many of you have been thinking of us and praying for us and we thank you sincerely for all your concern. We have been surprised and humbled by the numerous visits, phone calls and email messages we have received. We went to the New Year's Eve Ceilidh in the village and had a wonderful time. We had a collection for the disaster appeal at the Ceilidh which raised £125 and we are pleased that the village organised a collection of materials and fund-raising events. Our hearts go out to all those suffering the effects of the tsunami.

We are very glad to be alive. It was great to come back home.

*Sue (and Mike) Smith*

.....

*Dear Editor*

I would like to thank all those volunteers who so readily supported our Tsunami Disaster collections and made it all happen so fast. Cottenham Parish Council members, Julie Groves in particular who took up my idea, the Parish Church and Methodist Church for use of the halls/facilities and all the volunteers who gave their time and worked so hard and Citi Link at Bar Hill who donated the lorry!

Thank you

*Jacky Dixon*

.....

*Letters continued on next page*

*Letters continued from previous page*

**Dear Editor**

I was somewhat surprised to read in the Residents' Association report in the last issue of the *Cottenham Newsletter* the assertion that Cottenham Parish Council is being ignored by the District Council.

As a member of the Parish Council I know that this is not true.

Whilst criticisms of the District Council's approach to the issues at Smithy Fen have certainly been voiced at Parish Council meetings, dialogue about the matter has nonetheless continued between the two authorities. Indeed, at the time of writing this letter – just before Christmas and the *Newsletter* deadline – a further meeting has just been held between representatives of the Parish and senior members and officers of the District Council. Whilst this is not to say that the District Council has agreed to meet all the Parish's aspirations, it does underline the fact that lines of communication remain open and that the Parish Council can continue to represent local concerns to the planning authority.

I was also surprised to read the claim that the Residents' Association has been ostracized by the District Council. This is all the more surprising given that two of Cottenham's current three district councillors were actively promoted by the Residents' Association at the time of the local elections last June. I seem to recall that the Association commended them as the only candidates who could deliver what the local community wanted when it wanted it.

What has happened to change things so much in so short a time?

Yours sincerely

*Rex Collinson*

.....

**Dear Editor**

As a fellow power-chair user, I wish to endorse Jo Barnes' critique of the pitiful provision for the disabled in the village. Since reading her letter in your last issue I have looked at the whole range of services in the village and find them unchanged since October 1st when the new act came into force.

I like shopping at the Co-op and Spar. This is just as well since they are the only shops truly accessible to me. Newsagent, greengrocer, baker, building society, solicitor, bookmaker, picture-framer, photographer, toyshop, estate agent equally, are protected from me by cliff-like steps, though the newsagent says a ramp is planned. If any of the pubs, or the Curry Palace have arranged access, they are keeping the fact under wraps. The postmistress has told me that any ramp to replace the steps would have to reach the middle of the road! She is in discussion with S.Camb. Council about this. We are not holding our breath.

As it happens (for the moment), I am minimally ambulant but still have a struggle to negotiate these places. Disgracefully, the pharmacy is inaccessible, and if I want to collect a prescription or purchase medicaments, I have to drive to Tesco where I can use my buggy. For churchgoers, the Salvation

Army or All Saints are the best bets, though there is provision at the Baptist's side entrance and a notice about it at the front. Last week I spotted a moveable ramp by the side of the Methodist Church. Terry, at the greengrocers, has a similar ramp for his delivery-man, and presumably this can be used by others, but no information is displayed. The beauty parlour, recently opened practically on the eve of the act, has no ramp. Nor has the hairdresser. On the positive side, the chip shop happily serves me at the door, and doctors and dentist make full provision. B & C Motors and Travis Perkins are also accessible, the butcher just about. However if I lived in the new estate a few yards away from the High Street surgery, I would have to reach the latter via Broad Lane.

While there exists a reservoir of goodwill towards the disabled, this emphasises the fact that while the law is being openly flouted, we remain second-class citizens with diminished rights, as if bog-standard pavement surfaces, badly placed wheelie bins, inadequately dropped kerbs, steeply cambered driveways, car-blocked pavements were not enough. A significant amount of revenue is being lost to the village if we are obliged to use supermarkets, whose very aim is to destroy local community services, while at the same time these providers urge, 'use us or lose us'. They must accept that it's a two-way process!

*Richard Cook*

.....

**Dear Editor**

Why are all the bottle banks disappearing in and around Cottenham?

I am told that South Cambs District Council (SDRC) is proud of its recycling record. Why then is it systematically removing bottle banks?

About two to three years ago the bottle banks close to Cottenham's Village College disappeared. Then a few weeks ago those in Rampton close to the village hall got their marching orders. Finally the lonely red-coloured bottle bank in Oakington seems to have either flown away or been subsumed into the Bloor Homes housebuilding development.

I can understand that the Cottenham bank had to be resited because it was close to a house on the green and the noise of bottles smashing at 3am is unacceptable. But why did the Rampton bank vanish? The answer is because it was on parish land and the parish council asked for it to be removed because it was not being used. It was not being used because it was all too often FULL! On several occasions I have had to leave bottles by the side of full bins. It appears that the SDRC did no research into the use of the bottle banks there before removing them. Finally the recycling department at SDRC seems to have lost the lonely Oakington bottle bank because on more than one occasion before Christmas, they could not tell me where it was.

Now local residents are left with a hike to the bottle bank at Tesco's in Milton. Have you been there recently? It has some advantages in that it has a plastics recycling bin but the bottle banks are pressed together with openings at odd angles to each other and the site is on the wettest bit of the car park. Even in record dry-december 2004, there

*continued on next page*

continued from previous page

are plenty of puddles to negotiate.

And what's the point of having one bin for all sorts of different coloured glass as in Oakington if other sites have two to distinguish white and coloured glass while Tesco's site caters separately for white, green and brown bottles? It simply means more recycling work later-if any such work is actually done.

SDRC should immediately:-

- search out a site in Cottenham for bottle banks. Surely there's room somewhere in the Village College grounds or on the right front side of the Primary School in Lambs Lane , or if not what about on the abandoned lay-by on Oakington road where an earth mound has be disfiguring the countryside for years?
- Put back the bottle banks in Rampton.
- Find a site for bottle banks in Oakington.
- Tell residents what is happening to bottle banks before they disappear.

Several conversations with the dear recycling department at the SDRC also indicates that it has no idea of the dangers of recycling glass via green plastic boxes all too often left out overnight or for longer periods. There was a definite sucking-in of breath when I pointed out how dangerous handily-placed empty bottles could be as weapons or if broken glass is strewn across a road. In comparison bottle banks where glass cannot be extracted are a safe recycling unit. Will SDRC be the first council in 2005 to be sued for providing the means of inflicting grievous bodily harm?

It's time the recycling department at SDRC got a grip on its recycling policy.

Nigel Bolitho

.....

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

Deadline

FOR NEXT ISSUE  
25th FEBRUARY

Dear Editor

Relief at the news that some of our village friends have survived (very narrowly) the awful tragedy on the edges of the Indian Ocean and the wonderful response of everyone here to the emergency, plus the sight of so much devastation make me conscious that many of the villages destroyed have populations similar to our own.

In the light of these thoughts and the scope for wider travel opened up to many in recent years, it may now be practical and desirable to extend town and village twinning practice to embrace a wider world, including not only the Far East, but also Africa and other remoter lands, perhaps eventually Iraq, Israel and Palestine.

Peter Ward

.....

Dear Editor,

Following a year of ill health, my father, Tom Callaghan died in early December. I would just like to say a few words of thanks to all those who have been so warm and welcoming to him since he came to live in the village 5 years ago. He settled here very quickly and enjoyed life in Cottenham very much. I would like to say a particular thank you to those friends and neighbours who, over the last few months of Dad's illness, helped us in so many ways. From popping in to see Dad during the day when I was at work, making him a cup of tea, bringing his lunch, taking our dog out when we were too busy caring for Dad to find time, to helping with his care for a couple of days while Chris and I took a break. Since his death people have shown such support. People we don't even know, but who knew Dad, have expressed their condolences, this has all helped to make a very difficult time easier to cope with. It is at difficult times such as these that we realise how lucky we are to live here in Cottenham.

fond regards,  
Siobhan Taylor

ARTICLES, DATES AND  
ADVERTISEMENTS

E-mail, PC floppy disk and paper submissions are all welcome. Please contact the Editor if you have any questions. Dates of events to be advertised in the next issue (No. 86) should span the last week of March and the months of April and May.

ADVERTISING RATES

Current rates are:  
**Size A (1/8 page)- £17.50**  
**Size B (1/4 page)- £30.00**  
*(discount of 10% for six insertions prepaid)*

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

Contact Peter Robertson on  
01954 200080

# USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police .....	Community Beat Office.....	01223 358966
Doctors .....	Dr. Julie Gould, 188 High Street .....	250079
	Dr. M. Grande, 42 Telegraph Street .....	251180
Community Nurses .....	Answerphone or between 1.00 – 2.00 pm .....	251071
Cottenham CareCar .....	Co-ordinator, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm .....	251837
Cottenham Day Centre .....	Mrs. M. Gilbey, 45 Victory Way .....	251802
Cottenham Toy Library .....	Karen Wigley .....	252339
Dentist .....	Mr. Faber, Old Telephone Exchange, 40 Margett Street.....	251696
Chemist .....	Co-operative Pharmacy Cottenham, 222 High Street.....	250556
Chiroprapist .....	J.R. Kain, 13 Pelham Close .....	251143
Osteopath .....	Roger Giddings & Associates. Physic (Oakington Therapy Centre) Oakington Road, Girton. email: reception@physic.co.uk .....	01223 237459
Veterinary Surgeon .....	R. Hughes-Parry, 66 High Street .....	252122
Schools .....	Cottenham Village College and Community Office .....	288944
	County Primary, Lambs Lane .....	250227
Under Ones Group .....		250609
Pre-School .....	Ladybirds Pre-School, Recreation Ground .....	250891
Out of School Club .....		250025
Scouts .....	Carol Gerrard (Scout Group Secretary) .....	01954 202990
Council Offices .....	Cambridgeshire Direct – County & District Council Enquiries .....	08450 450500
Parish Council.	Clerk – Julie Groves, 44 Victory Way. e-mail: julie.groves@ntlworld.com .....	202928
District Councillors .....	Jacky Dixon, e-mail: cllr.dixon@scambs.gov.uk ...Home: 252083, Mobile: 07919 575190 Simon Edwards .....	Home: 01223 233682, Mobile: 07711 079089
	Tim Wotherspoon, e-mail: tim.wotherspoon@uk.uuemail.com .....	252108
County Councillor .....	Peter Stroude, e-mail: peter@stroude.fsbusiness.co.uk .....	01223 237984
British Red Cross .....	Cambridge Office .....	01223 354434
Citizens Advice .....	CAB, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge .....	08701 264010
Social Services .....	Histon Team .....	01223 718011
Mobile Warden Service .....		251182
NSPCC .....	Cottenham Area Team, Peterborough .....	01733 558245
RSPCA .....	Area Number, Peterborough .....	0870 5555999
Samaritans .....	Cambridge Centre.....	01223 364455
Railway Station .....	Cambridge, Passenger Enquiries .....	0845 7484950
Driving Instruction .....	TOPS Driving School .....	252239
Taxi .....	1st Stop Private Hire .....	01954 261026 or 07919 385702
Taxi .....	Pegasus Taxi .....	261324
Library .....	Margett Street.....	273322
Library Doorstep Service .....	Hilary Firth .....	01223 718358
Parish Church.....	The Rectory, 6 High Street .....	250454
Baptist Church. ....	Jeff Boyden, 72 Lyles Road .....	250985
Catholic Church .....	Fr David Paul, St Lawrences Church, 91 Milton Road, Cambridge .....	01223 704640
Methodist Church .....	The Rev'd. Cynthia Hardiman .....	01223 700778
Salvation Army .....	Majors Ian and Barbara Fawcett, 15 Pelham Close .....	250524
Royal British Legion .....	Matthew Baldry, 123 Coolidge Gardens. e-mail:matthew.baldry@tesco.net .....	202797

**EDITOR & ENQUIRIES:** Eddie Murphy, 51 Margett Street, Cottenham, Tel: 01954 251700  
e-mail: ejmurphy@ntlworld.com web: www.cottenhamnews.org.uk

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Peter Robertson, 30 Lyles Road, Cottenham, Tel: 200080

**DISTRIBUTION:** Paul Redman, Tel: 01954 203598

**PRINTED BY:** TARGET PRINT LTD, Broad Lane, Cottenham, Tel: 251189 Fax: 252080  
e-mail: print@targetprint.org



## BV Services

*For Independent Financial Advice Contact Nigel Bolitho at:*

Mitchell House, 185 High Street  
Cottenham, Cambridge CB4 8RX  
Telephone: (01954) 251521  
Fax: (01954) 252420  
Email: bolitho@enterprise.net