

Festive Meal

Join the committee at
The Chequers
on Friday 24th January 2014
for a post-Christmas dinner.

Committee Vacancies

The position of Treasurer and three non-officer committee positions are currently vacant. These may be filled via co-optation.

If you might be interested in one of these positions then please contact Steven Poole on 01954 203961 or at steven.j.poole@ntlworld.com.

Writing of the Original Village Design Statement

(Continuation from the article in newsletter issue 17.)

Was consensus of view possible? Many would have said no.

Did we have a budget? Well yes but the amount was not specified – could we work like this?

Well the way forward, in addition to the essential and regular articles in the Cottenham Newsletter to keep people informed, and having already discussed many issues was to ask everyone to write down their views and submit these to a newly formed sub-committee to draft the document. There was real enthusiasm and many people took the trouble to do this. These were compiled, discussed, re-ordered, discussed, amended, re-ordered, discussed... Every view and word was debated and its place was found.

Wonderful sketches of the outlines of real Cottenham buildings and artwork depicting the Fen scenery joined the words and the document really started to take shape.

Many hours of discussion later, a great pride in the village and the document itself was beginning to bring togetherness, a harmony of view and a consensus that, to be useful, it must reflect all views. We were pleased to be playing a part.

The chair could feel the committee's pride in the document.

The committee had included not only Parish Council reps but also a planner from the District Council. The outline plan for what became known as the Tenison Manor estate



was written by him to reflect the views coming out from the draft statement. There seemed every chance that not only would the statement reflect the views accurately but could have a real influence on development in the village.

We were aware that not every comment accorded with the District Council's view but we thought it constituted a real view of what Cottenham folk wanted. It was aimed at retaining and preserving much of what we had but equally encouraged new design. It was about the whole village from its economy to its community; context was a crucial factor.

It was time to test the water with the Head of the Planning Department of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Sadly his comments were negative. It would not be recommended as a Supplementary Planning Document in its present form. Without this it would have no legal status.

The writing sub-committee resigned en masse. It felt as if this first opportunity for laymen to write planning guidance may have failed.

Had the process been appropriate? Would this be the end of consensus? Indeed would it perhaps be the end of the initiative?

To be continued in the next Design Group newsletter.

*Mike Smith
Committee Member*



Visit to the Roof of King's College Chapel



Balancing precariously on wooden ladders to cross from one side of the roof to the other



Walking across the world's largest fan vaulted ceiling... and admiring the selection of classical graffiti



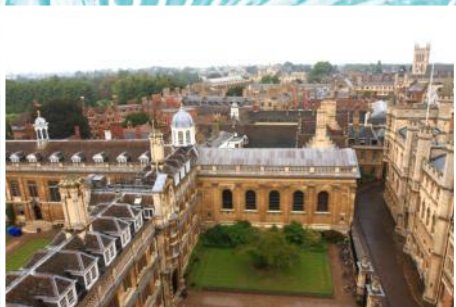
Supply your own caption...

On a rainy day in September, five members of the Design Group had the opportunity to experience King's College Chapel from an unusual perspective – its roof.

The tour, led by David Adamson (right) and Nicholas Marston (far left), also included the attic space between the interior fan vaulted ceiling and lead roof above.



Our guide, clearly at home on the roof



Clare College – Old Court and Chapel



King's College – Gibb's Building



Senate House



Fen Edge Festival Historic Buildings Walking Tour

The Design Group was pleased to lead walking tours again for the Fen Edge Festival weekend; four tours in all were conducted.

The group sizes varied from five to twelve and the tours were kept quite informal and interactive. The route was located around the Green and up towards Lacks Close, so there was not too far to walk.

The tour had a natural focus on the agricultural history of the village; we started at the very beautiful Elm Barns, behind Ivatt's House (thanks to the residents for allowing the group access for this). As in previous years, a number of house owners/occupiers came out of their houses to hear and see why a group of people were standing directly outside pointing and looking at their homes.

On the Saturday afternoon the group was privileged to accommodate Ralph Carpenter from the Village Society, who holds a very detailed and informative knowledge of Cottenham, which added a certain measure of direct history to the tour.

On the Sunday afternoon the tour was pleased to welcome a lady and her daughter who had just moved into the aforementioned Ivatt's House;

it was the passing of a group earlier that weekend that had interested them.

Some of the timber frame houses we saw had internal frames that were prefabricated off site, with the individual parts numbered like flatpack, before being delivered by cart. The age of the building was evident from the colour and sizes of bricks used, with red bricks often seen in older houses. Early brick deliveries would have been by cart from outside the village, later bricks made using local clay came from the Ivatt Brick works amongst others. Over time sizes and colours became more standardised as modern kilns came into use. In conjunction with the opening of the railways slate became more widely available, which could be collected from Histon, this gives the village the look that we see today.

Bill Miller was, as before, an excellent guide who spoke with authority and knowledge on the evolution of old buildings and their materials.



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