

Milton

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Village View

Village News Sheet

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Whats On Competition

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Issue No. 76 - February 2007



Hazel Smith cutting the ribbon to open the new Youth Centre

Milton Country Park Closure Threat



Supporters of the park collecting sign ups for the campaign against the possible closure of the park

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet voted on the 14th December 2006 to:- approve work to establish the medium / long-term future of Milton Country Park through:

(a) Undertaking an Asset Management Review with the assistance of Cambridgeshire County Council, subject to the outcome of the 15 December 2006 meeting between the Head of Community Services and the Cambridgeshire County Council Head of Property Asset Management, and

the possible closure of the park (b) Seeking an appropriate external organisation to take on by 31 August 2007 the management and possible ownership of the park, whether

through a Trust or by another suitable agency, but if no suitable partnership could be arranged or appeared likely by that date, that officers be instructed to take the necessary steps to close the park.

Since the announcement Milton Parish Council has given its official backing to the 'SAVE MILTON COUNTRY PARK CAMPAIGN', a group who are working with the 'Friends of Milton Country Park' to save the park. They are running a campaign and a petition (see insert & page 2 for details).

New Youth Centre Opens

After much effort, fundraising and building work the new purpose built building for the youth of Milton is now open. The official opening was attended by over 60 people and included some of the young people who will be using the centre.

District and Parish Councillor Hazel Smith opened the building. Hazel who raised over £90,000 of the funding, thanked South Cambs District Council, Waste Recycling Group Ltd (Landfill money distributed by WREN), Evolve EB and Donarbon Ltd , Cambridgeshire County Council, Trinity College and Garfield Weston Foundation for generous grants as well as local businesses that supported the fund-raising. She also thanked the Parish Council for all their work and financial contribution and thanked especially the Parish Council Youth Building Group. Hazel said, "Without all the support we have received in the village and from our funders this new building would not have been possible and I am really pleased that all our efforts have been worthwhile. I am looking forward to the building being well used."

Work started in July 2006 on the new purpose built building which cost about £117,000 .

The new facility has a main coffee bar area with air hockey and table tennis, a comfortable tv / lounge area and a computer room that will shortly be equipped with new computers connected to the internet. There will initially be a regular evening Youth Club session each week and additional project work.

In the time between the old building burning down and the new one being opened the club has been run in a number of centres including the Community Centre and the Church Hall.

The Youth Work coordinator Andrea Cramp said, "Having

a permanent base will make all the difference to youth work in Milton – we will have all the facilities we need to build up the club and we are looking forward to working positively with the young people in Milton."



Youth Leader Andrea Cramp and some of the young people using the centre



(01223) 440376

FENSA

FAX (01223) 860284 The Brambles, Green End, Landbeach, Cambridge, CB4 8ED

www.miltonwindows.co.uk

Email: - info@miltonwindows.co.uk



Send Us Your Stories

to Jane Coston, 67 Coles Road Tel. 01223 563539 or by e-mail to: vv@miltonvillage.org.uk We are also on the web at: http://www.miltonvillage.org.uk/

Local Concerns or Enquiries Parish Contacts

Clerk to Parish Council Jim Daniels

Parish Office, Coles Road CB4 6BL Tel. 861447 clerk@miltonvillage.org.uk

Chairman of the Parish Council Jane Coston

67 Coles Road. Tel. 563539 chair@miltonvillage.org.uk

Vice Chair of the Parish Council Paul Oldham

4 Church Lane. Tel. 861045 paul@the-hug.org.uk

District Councillors

Hazel Smith, 7 Hall End. Tel. 860752 hazel.smith@miltonvillage.org.uk

Richard Summerfield 1 Willow Crescent. Tel. 860715 richard@tsummerfield.freeserve.co.uk

County Councillor
Michael Williamson, The Willows, Long
Drove, Waterbeach, Cambs. Tel. 860899 michael.williamson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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Story Time in the Park

I would like to thank Malcolm Busby and friends for the lovely stories told on December 10th at the Country Park Centre. Also Ann Caine for her lovely card making and Christmas decorations. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

> Thank you all Wendy Stanley

Milton Country Park - The facts:

The Country Park land is in different ownerships. Some belongs to Cambridgeshire County Council, some to South Cambs and some to a private owner.

The private landowner owns almost all the land between the lakes and the A14 which includes the car park and the land on which the Visitor Centre is built. It is leased to South Cambridgeshire District Council on a 999 year lease.

The lease states that the land can only be used as a Country Park.

If the Park closes, or any other use is proposed by South Cambridgeshire District Council then the land reverts to the landowners.

Why No Traditional Petition

People have asked us why we aren't running a traditional style paper petition for the "Save Milton Country Park" campaign, the sort where people just sign their names on a long list. The reason is that we want to do more than count up the number of signatures we get.

When supporters sign up, either online or using our petition form, a copy of which you will find inside this Village View, we obtain valuable (and legible) information including your address and postcode. We can use this to show how geographically widespread the support is for Milton Country Park - we have supporters from all over South Cambridgeshire and much further afield.

We also want to know how people use the Park and your answers to the questionnaire are providing us with a fascinating insight into the many and varied ways in which people enjoy time in the Park, from regular dog-walking, to special and significant times for remembrance with family and friends. This in turn gives us real influence when we discuss the importance of the Park with councillors.

It's also useful to know your age range, if you don't mind telling us, as this lends weight to the argument that people of all ages are using the Park.

Finally we're thinking long-term. If we do manage to save the Park, it is likely that we will need to set up a charitable trust to run it. That trust will need active members and (unless you ticked the box asking us not to) we would like to write to you in due course to inform you about the trust and our plans.

All of this means that we are encouraging people to sign up online wherever possible as it saves us a lot of work entering your information. You can do that online at www.SaveMiltonCountryPark.com.

If you do not have access to the Internet then use the petition form. You can use one form per household and please write very clearly, so we can input your information accurately. If you want more copies ask a friend to download a petition form from the website and print off copies for you, friends and relatives. Copies are available at the Visitor Centre in the Country Park. You may also like to write to Cllr. Vicky Ford at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6EA.

> Paul Oldham Save Milton Country Park campaign

As we go to print - the campaign has clocked up over 7,800 sign ups!

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50th Cambridge (Milton & Landbeach) Scout Group

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 10th March

Milton Community Centre

Coles Road, Milton Doors Open 2:30 pm Admission 20p

Landbeach Busytots and PlaygroupAre holding a

CHARITY AUCTION

Thursday 8th March Milton Primary School

Tickets £1 and includes entrance and glass of wine Contact Emma (01223)861995

SCRABBLE

13113311

The second Friday in the month in the Church Hall Starting at 7.30pm Admission only 50p Two games, refreshments and a few small prizes which could be called a lucky dip.

Whist Drives

4th Tuesday in the month at the Milton Community Centre Admission £1.50 Very good value starting 7.30pm sharp 24 games, refreshments & raffle

M Daniels

East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH)

Milton Gala Day

Milton Hall, Milton, Cambridge

12th May

Family fun day for ALL the family. Organised by our Milton Friends Group. For further information, please contact Sally on 01223 205198 (sally.cassels@each.org.uk)

23rd April

Milton Children's Hospice (EACH) Open Day For an invitation or further information, please contact the EACH fundraising office on 01223 205180 or funding@each.org.uk

> 18th September Milton Children's Hospice

(EACH) Open Day
For an invitation or further
information, please contact the
EACH fundraising office on 01223
205180 or funding@each.org.uk

Milton Country Park

Tuesday 20 March Birdwatching for beginners (adults)

Bird identification from 10am – 12pm with local author and bird enthusiast David Chandler. To book call (01223) 524013 or email chandlers@ntlworld.com £9 per person

For more information about park events visit

www.scambs.gov.uk
call (01223) 420060
or email:
miltoncp@scambs.gov.uk

Wanted

Lorry for this years Summer Fayre

On Sunday 8th July 12 – 5pm A 7.5 curtain sided truck or similar that is big enough for a band to perform on or is there anybody local who could erect a stage?

We would be very grateful for help or an offer with either.

Please phone Lynda Molloy for details on (01223) 862093

email: miltonfayre@yahoo.co.uk

Many thanks Lynda Molloy

Time For A Milton Village Plan

Want to have your say in local affairs? Got some ideas about the future of the village? Interested in helping to collect views from the whole village? -- we're going to need your help!

Milton Parish Council agreed at their January meeting to support the production of a Milton Parish Plan. Coming at a time when there are many changes that could affect living and working in Milton, it seems sensible to know what everyone thinks! This process will give everyone an opportunity to express their views about the future of the village - even if it can take a year before the final plan is published.

A small group of parish councillors have agreed to start the process. We want to inform everyone in the village about creating a Parish Plan and how to express views and ideas. We will call a meeting to form a steering group, which needs to have a wide range of members who are interested in collecting ideas and information that can be used to write the plan. Look out for further information and details about the meeting when we set the date!!

Phil Badley (Parish Councillor)

I.G.M

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.org.uk/scouts/marquee/

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minibus.bookings@miltonvillage.org.uk



Scouting in Milton



The Scout Movement celebrates its centenary this year - yes it's 100 years since Baden Powell held that first Camp for a few boys on Brownsea Island and today Scouting is the largest mixed youth organisation in the world offering young people an attractive, exciting and worthwhile pastime. In the United Kingdom over half a million people experience the fun and friendship of modern Scouting in 10,000 Groups.

Scouting started in Milton around 1921 and over the following 40 or so years ceased and reformed on numerous occasions. The present Group, formally known as the 50th Cambridge (Milton & Landbeach), was registered in May 1964 and has continued to go from strength to strength. It is currently one of the strongest Groups in the Cambridge area offering a wide range of activities to over 80 boys from six to eighteen years of age. Up until now we have not taken in girls because they are well catered for by our sister movement, the Guides, and we have a large enough waiting list of boys eager to join! However from this year we must be coeducational and offer Scouting to girls in all our sections. It means that should a girl want to join, we must accept her, or put her on the waiting list as we would with a boy wanting to join.



Why, you may ask, do you have a waiting list? The answer is quite simple - if we had more adult help we could accept more boys (and girls!). However as things stand we really do not have sufficient adults at times to support the present number of boys.

How can YOU help?

We URGENTLY need more uniformed Leaders and non-uniformed Helpers to assist with the weekly meetings and activities. Full training will be provided for these voluntary, but very rewarding roles. You do not have to have wide ranging experiences or skills - just plenty of enthusiasm and a desire to help young people. You can give as much or as little time as you choose



If you are interested or wish to know more then please contact me by telephone, e-mail or letter. Without additional help Scouting may no longer flourish in Milton.

> Rob Farrington Group Scout Leader

To find out more about the many worthwhile and exciting opportunities to help Scouting in Milton, please contact:

Rob Farrington, 8 Pryor Close, Milton, Cambridge. CB24 6BU

Tel: 01223 860160Mob: 07778 88611 Email:rob.farrington@btopenworld.com

Training Sections Beaver Scouts (6 – 8 years) Cub Scouts (8 – 10.5 years)

Scouts (10.5 – 14 years) Explorer Scouts (14 – 18 years)

What do we do in the Sections?



Beaver Scouts are the youngest section (6 - 8 years) and their motto is Fun and Friendship. They meet on Monday evenings from 6.15 to 7.30pm and activities are a combination of learning and having fun. Simple crafts which help develop their co-ordination, playing team games to give them an idea of working together and occasional outings all form part of the weekly programme.



Cub Scouts (8 to 10.5 years) meet on Friday nights from 6.15 to 7.45pm. Their programme is based on joining

in, challenge and activity badges. These are reflected in a wide range of indoor and outdoor pursuits including games, crafts, challenges, visits, outings and of course camping.



Scouts (10.5 to 14 years) also meet on Friday nights from 7.45 to 9.30pm.

Training activities are about ACTION and INVOLVEMENT and mean more than just camping. Hiking, rock climbing, sailing, pioneering, canoeing, abseiling, karting, putting on shows, photography, electronics – the list is endless. Scouts are also given the chance to learn skills in survival, cooking and first aid. The highlights of the year are usually the Summer and Autumn camps when many of these activities and skills come



together.

Explorer Scouts (14 – 18 years) currently meet with the Scouts on a Friday night, but also have the opportunity to join a District Explorer Scout Unit in Cambridge. They take part in more challenging activities and also can be trained as

a Young Leader in the Beaver, Cub or Scout sections. If suitable adult help can be found we would like to start our own Explorer Scout Unit in Milton.



And finally......

We aim to give Scouting a high profile in Milton and as such the Group is involved in many community activities. We thank residents for their support at our fund raising events – all monies raised help to provide better Scouting for our young people.

All we ask for now is a little of your valuable time as a Leader, Helper or Instructor. All roles are voluntary and full training will be provided where necessary.

Excellent Pantomine

I would like to thank all the people who organised the pantomime again. It was an excellent show. We adults and kids love it. Father Christmas was lovely too.

> Thank you Wendy Stanley





Would you like to help in the School Library?

Milton Primary School is keen to recruit volunteers to help in the school library at lunchtimes.

If you have an hour to spare from time to time on a rota basis, think you would enjoy chatting to the children about the books, helping them to find books on different subjects, and operating a lending system, please contact the school office. Tel 508783.

A full CRB check would be required (forms available from the school). Grandparents especially welcome!

Do you need help to get your shopping?

Are you retired and unable to get to Tesco and back with your shopping?

If you need help to Tesco and back then please apply for a place on the Milton Trolley Bus. This is a minibus that runs fortnightly and the service is provided free. You are picked up at your door and taken to Tescos. The minibus returns about an hour later and takes you and your shopping back home again. The scheme is funded by Milton Parish Council and The Jean Gallagher Trust.

If you would like a place on the bus please contact one of the following. We would be happy to hear from you.

Tony Stubbings Tel. 860923, John Uttin Tel. 861023 or Jane Coston Tel. 563539

Local Network Fund for Children and Young People

Providing grants of between £250 and £7,000 to community groups working with children and young people aged 0-

Would a small grant help you to improve the opportunities available to children and young people?

Funding will usually be for one year only. In exceptional circumstances two year funding may be awarded (but only before March 2007). Conditions apply. If you would like more information vou can contact Fleur Kerrecoe, Local network Fund Development Officer on 01353 860850 or email:

Fleur.kerrecoe@cambsacre.org.uk

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Former pupil of Milton Primary School and Impington Village College awarded MBE

John Lander has been made an MBE for services to the aerospace industry. Mr Lander, of Home Close, Histon, received the award in recognition of his work with aspiring young engineers at Marshall's and at Teversham Primary School.

Mr Lander, 39, a senior air frame fitter at the Cambridge firm, said: "Obviously it's a great honour. But like a lot of individual honours, it has been earned by a lot of people. It has been earned by the staff at Marshall's and by people at Teversham Primary." Mr Lander has been with Marshall's for 23 years since starting as an apprentice and has working on military aircraft like RAF TriStars and Hercules. For the last eight years he has been visiting the school, with the support of his firm, to help pupils with projects. Mr Lander said: "I teach them about wing design and about how wings work. I enjoy it a lot." He is also a part-time instructor with Marshall's apprentice and adult training programmes.

Pilates

Mondays Milton Community Centre 9.30 - 10.30am & 10.30 - 11.30am

Tuesdays Milton Primary School Ball Class 6.40pm - 7.40pm Mat Class 7.50pm - 8.50pm

Contact: Liz Dolman (01353) 749611 or (07768) 155278 for further details

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All Saints' Church, Milton

What's On



Regular Sunday Services

8.00am – 9.00am Holy Communion Service A traditional, quiet start to Sunday

10.30 am – 11.45 am

Morning Worship & Junior Church

Worship for all, with crèche & children's groups followed by refreshments.

1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays 10.30am – 11.45am Holy Communion All together Service for all ages

2nd Sunday 10.30am – 11.45am Holy Communion – Adults only

5th Sunday 7.00pm – 8.15pm Evening Celebration Modern Worship, word and ministry for all; refreshments served from 6.30pm

Dates of special interest

8.00pm 21st February Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion

> 10.30am 18th March Mothering Sunday

10.30am 1st April Palm Sunday

8.00pm 5th April
Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion
2.00pm 6th April
Hour at the Cross
7.00pm 6th April
Good Friday Worship
10.30am 8th April
Easter Holy Communion – All Together

For further details, please see www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk or contact the church office on 01223 441007

Mobile Library

Alternate Fridays and Saturdays

Next visits:

Friday
Milton Post Office 14:25 - 15:10
Milton Community Centre 15:15 - 16:15

February 9, 23, March 9, 23

Saturday

Milton Post Office Stores 11:30 - 12:15

The Rowans 12:20 - 13:15 **February 17, March 3, 17, 31**

For renewals or enquiries please ring 0845 045 5225

Local Vacancy

Caretaker/cleaner for new Youth Centre

A practical person or a couple, required to work a few hours a week as required, as keyholder unlocking and locking and cleaning including a little DIY. Please apply to Milton Community Centre, or for more details telephone 860752.

Senior Citizens Outings

A record FIVE trips last year were provided for Milton Senior Citizens.

Mid year is always our seaside trip and on the 14th June we spent the day at Holt and Cromer, although everybody had a good time, this year the weather was a little on the cool side.

In August we had another river trip as in the last two years a river journey had proved so popular. We took a coach to Westminster and then a return trip on the river to Greenwich, a lovely sunny day ensured a pleasant time on the Thames was had by all.

A shopping trip in October to the lovely City of Norwich was enjoyed by all who went. Our regular trip to the Thursford Xmas show in November proved to be another huge success and we all had a most enjoyable evening with great entertainment.

And finally on December 6th we finished our record year, with a Christmas shopping trip to Kings Lynn.

Marie and I would like to thank the Trustees of the Gallagher Trust on behalf of the Milton senior citizens for the funds that are made available to enable us to arrange and enjoy these outings.

Hopefully we will be able to continue these trips in 2007. Please watch out for the posters displayed in the Post Office and the Community Centre.

The Milton Senior Citizens outings are run solely for people living in the village and are not affiliated to any other club, or organisation.

All enquires to Marie Davis on 520061 or Daphne Linsey on 862804

Marie and Daphne

Parish Council & Village Report

Park & Ride Plans to move the park & ride to a site off Butt Lane and revise the road layout are still ongoing.

Rowing Lake The Sports Lakes Trust plans will be discussed again at a planning meeting of SCDC on February 7th.

Sewage Works Move No decision has been made yet about where the replacement sewage works will be located.

Country Park Representatives of the Parish Council have been meeting with South Cambridgeshire District Council in the hope that a way can be found to save the park and secure its long-term future.

A14 Bridge Developers who wish to build homes near Wilburton are looking into changing the footbridge for a bus bridge.

Land near Tesco An injunction giving 28 days to clear the site has been issued.

Jane Coston

Landbeach and Milton Baptist Church

Sunday Services

10.30 am Family Service 6.30 pm Evening worship

Midweek Home groups

Landbeach every Tuesday 7.30pm and Wednesday Morning 10.00am

All are welcome to our small but friendly fellowship.

Further details may be obtained from Maureen Clark, Tel 01223 863229.

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PUZZLE CORNER

The December puzzle for the Christmas turkey proved to be very popular. The answer to the puzzle was "CHRISTMAS" and of course all entries received were correct! The first one out of the hat was Barry Moore of Froment Way.

There were three runners up prizes and these went to R Richardson of Landbeach Road, Joyce Mann of Old School Lane and Chad Hambley of Barnabas Court.

Congratulations are due to all of our prizewinners and thanks to everyone who took the time to send in an entry.

It's quite a while since we tried some DINGBATS - so this month's puzzle will be to solve a few. A Dingbat is an everyday saying presented in a disguised form.

For example:

ELBAT ELBAT

would be 'TURN THE TABLES' - so see how you get on with these!

- 1. E
- i ok i
- **GNINRUTON**
- HAMLET WORDS
- LA NE RO AD STR EET
- **CUT** CUT CUT
- 7 TOUCH **EARTH**
- ALL ALL AND ALL ALL

Don't worry if you can't solve them all the prizes will be awarded on the most correct answers (or inventive answers!)

The prizes this time have been donated by B J Leonard, Painting, Decorating & Glazing. Send your entries to Michael Spooner 43a Old School Lane Milton Cambridge CB24 6BS. If you wish to use e-mail then send to mismilton@tesco.net Entries should reach me by 8 March.

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Jane Coston presenting Barry Moore with his Pete's Meats Christmas turkey prize

Milton Tennis Club

Milton Tennis Club runs from 1st April until 30th September. The courts are used for netball from 1st October to 31st March. One tennis net is kept on the courts during the winter months, however, if you wish to play October - March please contact Milton Community Centre first to make sure the courts are free. For information on the tennis club see

www.miltonvillage.org.uk/mtc. This will be updated for the 2007 season. Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 28th February 2007, all welcome.

Sue Griffin, Secretary

Whist Drive Thanks



Thank you Mary for the lovely Christmas Whist Drive on Tuesday 19th December. There were six tables of players and lots of lovely prizes. Well done!

Wendy Stanley

Brain Teaser

Read the following - just once at normal speed and count how many f's there are. 'Finished files are the result of years of scientific study combined with experience of years.'

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Police



Scott Evans the new PCSO for this area

Hello everybody I am Scott Evans the new PCSO for your area. I will be working alongside PC Phil Shulver to provide a high visibility presence and help tackle such issues as anti-social behaviour and parking problems.

I am new to the constabulary and I am looking forward to the challenges ahead. I also enjoy interacting with the community and am looking forward to meeting you all PCSO Scott Evans

(Scott Evans has replaced PCSO Kayleigh Crowson)

Milton Colts Secretary to take on Marathon!

Chris Drummond, Milton Colts Secretary and wife Terrie are to tackle the Flora London Marathon on the 22nd April 2007. Both are hoping to raise £2,500 for spinal research. The charity uses funds to find a cure for both traumatic and sporting injuries to the spine. They also use funds to provide ways to support people who already have traumatic spinal injuries.

Chris and Terrie are hoping to achieve decent times in the race.

Sponsor forms will be on display around the village, donations and pledges can be sent to 9 the Elms, Milton or on (01223) 863615. There is a web address www.justgiving.com/chrisdrummond

SCRABBLE

A little puzzle for you
The score for the word SCRABBLE could be 203 points if played on a double treble plus another word going downwards. Scrabble players should be able to work this out.

OY, MARGE DANGLES IN AIR

C H LUMB

(BUILDERS) DRAINAGE - GUTTERING UPVC FACIAS & SOFFITS PATIOS & FENCING ALTERATIONS 01223 354402 Mobile 07762026290

Milton Parish Council Contacts List

Milton Parish Council is responsible for the cemetery. mobile warden. the

allotments, playing fields (through MCC), bus shelters, Christmas lights, the war memorial, play equipment, youth clubs and comments on planning applications. It also arranges and pays for litter collection and grass cutting.

If you wish to contact the Council please, in the first instance, contact the Clerk, Jim

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'Michael C' the new workboat

New Workboat for River Cam

The Conservators of the River Cam were formed in 1702 by Act of Parliament and are responsible for maintenance of navigation on the River Cam from the City Centre to Bottisham Lock. with some responsibilities further upstream Grantchester. At Bottisham Lock, management of the navigable waterway passes over to the Environment Agency. The Conservators of the River Cam are one of a few independent navigation authorities which have been

able to withstand the pressures which, over time, have forced many smaller authorities and commissions to merge into larger entities such as British Waterways and the Great Ouse River Board (now the Environment Agency).

Committee members have come and gone over the many years but in 2006, the navigation authority made its most significant structural change to date. With the imminent retirement of two key post-holders, the Conservators chose to merge the statutory roles of the Clerk and Engineer into the new post of 'River Manager'. I was the lucky person to be selected for this role, starting alongside the Clerk and Deputy River Manager on 1st August in Ely and Archer & Archer solicitors. I had been employed previously with the Environment Agency at Brampton as a River Inspector, overseeing the navigable waterway from Bedford to Earith.

My first two months as the new River Manager were spent, in the main, getting to grips with an enormous number of files and overseeing the relocation of the Conservators' administration to the refurbished lock-keeper's cottage beside Baits Bite Lock. Cambridge builders KH Construction undertook the refit of the building over the summer of 2006. The office came into operation on 2nd October and, give-or-take a few minor additional works, my Deputy and I are very much enjoying our new, ever-changing view out of the window looking towards the lock and the renovations of Wildfowl Cottage on the opposite river bank. I'm sure the builders observe us as much as we observe them!

I have come into the organisation at a time when a second large project has come to fruition. Today, the Conservators celebrated the arrival of a bright yellow workboat named 'Michael C after their Chairman, Professor Michael Chisholm. This new boat has been built to replace the Conservators' old boat, 'Cyril C', which was sold off in a rather dilapidated state in early 2006. The new boat will be used by the river crew who are based at Clayhithe to assist in river operations. Typical activities requiring the boat include tree clearance, bank maintenance, clearing debris from the weir safety booms and collecting the many bicycles that are thrown into the river, particularly close to the City. 'Michael C' has a large spacious cabin with heating and messing facilities which the river crew will come to appreciate over the chill winter months when they do much of their routine maintenance work. Its purpose-built crane will make light, and safe, work for the crew and they will be able to fill the large hold with debris which will be returned to Clayhithe for sorting and disposal. 'Michael C' will be working alongside the other Conservancy boat, the Berky weed harvester, which may be a familiar sight to those who use the towpath between Clayhithe and Chesterton. Ralph Honey, our weed harvester skipper, enjoyed his 5 minutes of fame recently in Anglia TV's programme 'Secret Rivers', hosted by Paul Heiney (ex-That's Life presenter) who was exploring East Anglia's rivers by open canoe. Dr Philippa Noon, River Manager

For more information about what we do visit the Conservators' website at www.camconservators.org.uk.

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