



# Village of the Year 2005

Horningsea - a small, but beautiful village north of Cambridge with just 235 people on the electoral roll.



Award winning villagers (l-r) Mary Parker, secretary of Horningsea Trust; Graham Sanderson, chair of Horningsea Trust; Michael Hellowell, chair of Parish Council; Terry Mann, project manager, Horningsea Residents Association (HRA); Pauline Hellowell, secretary, HRA and John Wilson, chair of HRA.

Horningsea children enjoying their new play area, Goose Green

It may be small, but judges from Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), were hugely impressed with how much a small village had achieved for the community over the last five years. So much so, they awarded them the honoured title of Village of the Year for South Cambridgeshire.

*South Cambs magazine* asked parish council chairman, Michael Hellowell, what had made them a winning village.

"We've tried to provide something for all ages through all sorts of grants and village initiatives. The children are enjoying a new play area at Goose Green, which was funded by Donarbon Ltd of Landbeach. They provided a Land Fill Tax Credit grant of nearly £25,000

and South Cambs DC funded a further £10,000.

"We have a millennium pavilion and green, which has been put to great use – all surrounded by a lovely orchard, green, pond and sculpture.

"We opened a landscaped Queens Jubilee Garden earlier this year. Our ACRE prize money will either purchase a new bench for our senior citizens, or contribute towards the financing of our brand new war memorial.

"We've all been involved in village activities – one of our biggest events was the VE Day celebrations which involved 1940's music, a sports day, disco, barbeque and beacon lighting. But as well as special

occasions day-to-day village life is just as busy with a packed programme of activities from the Horningsea Residents Association, Women's Institute, Toddler Group and Horticultural Society; as well as musical concerts and an art group.

"This award provides Horningsea's residents with a real milestone of success, which everyone should enjoy, feel proud to have and try hard to repeat. Our project for 2006/7 will be a much needed cycle-way from Horningsea to Fen Ditton to create not only a safer route to school for our children, but a safer route for all into Bottisham, the Park and Ride and Cambridge City via the Jubilee route."

# Spin the world



If everyone who volunteers were to stop tomorrow this country would probably grind to a halt.

Hospitals, driving schemes, schools, historic houses, elderly day centres, drug and information centers – and a whole lot more - would close.

There are lots of opportunities to get involved with voluntary work in a rural area like South Cambridgeshire. The Cambridge & District Volunteer Centre, Llandaff Chambers, Cambridge has links to volunteering opportunities with a variety of organisations. They have a workshop for potential volunteers, which explores volunteering and provides follow-up advice to help people find the best opportunities. If your group or club is interested in taking part call (01223) 356549, or email [info@cam-volunteer.org.uk](mailto:info@cam-volunteer.org.uk)

Many people act as volunteer drivers for village car schemes, which take people to hospital and doctors appointments, for example. For information about a scheme near you contact Alison at Care Network on (01223) 264997.

Other good sources of local volunteer information are parish councils, or village schools, who are often looking for help with reading, school trips and other general support, subject to a police check.



# Hit the road

The new vehicle - coming to a village near you

An exciting new community safety vehicle is touring South Cambridgeshire with a packed roadshow of safety information, film showings, games and giveaways.



South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has helped sponsor the vehicle, which is run by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue. A film screen on the outside of the vehicle shows community safety films and cartoons, while a range of informative leaflets, posters and games is also available.

Lawrie Booth, deputy chief fire officer explains, "The partnership was faced with the big task of educating and informing residents in an area covering over 900 square kilometres. The only way to reach everyone was to get some wheels and become mobile."

The vehicle is available for groups and organisations to use at events and for educational work on arson, anti social behaviour and other problem areas. The vehicle is small enough to fit into school playgrounds, market squares, main streets etc., but once opened up has a large enough impact to be equally at home at County fairs, village fetes and carnivals.

South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Partnership members are Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust, Connexions, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and National Probation Service.

For more information on the community safety vehicle contact South Cambs District Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue on (01223) 376217.

# Have vouchers, will travel

If you're over 65, don't have access to a car, have difficulties using buses and need to travel at different times from scheduled services, the new rural taxicard scheme is for you!

Taxicard schemes allow people with mobility difficulties, who are unable to use public transport or have no other means of transport, to travel by taxi at a subsidised fare.

From January 2006, a new scheme will be running in Fullbourn, Girton, Grantchester, Histon, Oakington and Sawston. A similar scheme is already in place at Teversham, Horningsea and Fen Ditton.

If you are eligible to join the scheme, you can order a book of taxicard vouchers from the number below, book your taxi from the list of participating companies and use the vouchers to pay towards the total fare.

Vouchers can also be pooled together with other taxicard members to make your trip even cheaper.



Get out and about with the new taxicard scheme

To find out more call the community transport officer at Cambridgeshire County Council on (01223) 717755.

# Finding funds

Voluntary and community groups picked up funding advice and information straight from the horses mouth at the third South Cambridgeshire Funding Fair in September.

Funding agencies at the fair included the Co-operative Group, Heritage Lottery Fund, Awards for All, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, Local Network Fund, Youth Music, Wren, Donarbon, Help the Aged, Cambridgeshire ACRE, University of Cambridge Active Communities Fund, Community Champions and Cambridge CVS.

Workshops showed visitors how to apply for funding from the Young Peoples' Fund and landfill tax credit scheme and how to become a registered charity.

The Fair complements the hugely successful South Cambs DC Funding Toolkit, which has helped voluntary groups across the District find financial support for a range of projects.

For funding advice and a copy of the funding toolkit, contact Susannah Harris, community development officer on 01954 713355 or email susannah.harris@scambs.gov.uk

# Getting out and about

Get out and enjoy the great outdoors at Milton Country Park between New Year and Easter at a range of exciting events:

## January

Saturday 28 - Character

and voice workshop by

Cambridge Storytellers

Sunday 29 - Big Garden

Birdwatch (Watch Wildlife

Explorers' family group)

## February

Saturday 4 - Voice and

character workshop by Cambridge Storytellers

Sunday 12 - Nest box making (Watch Wildlife Explorers' family group)

## April

Wednesday 5 and 12 - Children's Easter holiday activity days

Friday 7 - Cambridgeshire bird club

Sunday 16 - Easter treasure hunt.

Sunday 30 - evening birdwalk (Watch Wildlife Explorers' family group)



For more information about start times and charges, and to book your place, contact Milton Country Park rangers on (01223) 420060 or email miltoncp@scambs.gov.uk