

MOVING TIMES

An Occasional Newsletter from

DAKIN ESTATES LTD

Very Best Wishes for 2018 to all

2017/2018



How can you acquire an £895k mansion for £40?

Recently a woman did actually acquire a mansion worth £895k for £40.

The house was being disposed of by lottery and she was the winner!

Never mind the recent rise of online property sales - another method of house selling which is rapidly rising in popularity is by holding a lottery the winner of which gets the house for the price of a ticket or tickets.

Many such lotteries are sold by people who have failed to sell by more conventional means and there are even companies such as Winabode and Houseagogo that will arrange to do it for you, for this method of disposal is not without its potential drawbacks and risks.

What, for instance, happens if the value of the number of tickets sold is



considerably less than even the forced sale value of the house?

To hold a lottery for a house there are many issues to be addressed. There are stamp duty issues, property misdescription issues as well as the ire of The Gambling Commission to be considered for such practice, if not compliant, may be illegal attracting a fine of £5000 and even 52 weeks in

jail. (More, in some cases, than you get for killing someone!!).

Legally, straightforward lotteries which involve only luck should only benefit good causes, charities and other non-commercial organisations. There is a fine line between what constitutes a lottery, a competition and a prize draw and indeed between charities and non-

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DAKIN ESTATES LTD
Developing Tradition

Do you have buildings or land with planning potential?

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See our website for details of present and past projects as well as previous copies
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The £40 mansion

► continued from front

commercial organisations.

In simple terms, there should involve an element of skill not just pure luck. This is why there is often a question in such competitions that the reader has to answer correctly when buying a ticket. These answers are often laughably easy and readily googled. The answer

may even be stated elsewhere in the advert text but this, technically at least, constitutes an element of skill to stay within the law.

There have been cases of people commencing a lottery to sell their homes and having the process stopped mid-way due to it being illegal. Not only could they face a £5,000 fine

and go to prison for up to a year, they would face some fairly angry punters who having purchased tickets, suddenly find the draw delayed or even cancelled.

Still, we don't suppose the lady who won an £895 mansion with £40 worth of lottery tickets is losing much sleep over such matters!!

"The trouble with todays period home market is that The Georgians simply did not build enough houses to satisfy todays demand. (Despite having all the best development sites!)"

The Left Hookers (Part 3)

Our previous two issues have carried articles featuring right and left hand drive cars and the history behind them.

Some years ago, inspecting some farm buildings, ND came across a barn full of vintage Rolls Royces. No, sadly, it wasn't a "barn find". They had not lain there forgotten for decades, the owner had a business renting out vintage cars.

ND, however, noticed that many of the older cars, (all right hand drive), had, unusually, a slightly stubby floor mounted gearstick on the drivers right next to the door.

The owner explained that at one time Rolls Royce assumed that all their buyers would have a chauffeur. The gearstick position by the driver's door was to facilitate the chauffeur pulling up to the kerb then sliding across the front bench seat



and exiting the vehicle by the passenger door to open the rear passenger door for his employer to step onto the pavement.

Later, in a more egalitarian age, Rolls Royce conceded that some of their buyers might actually be driving the car themselves and gear sticks were positioned in their more conventional position on the driver's left.

Rolls Royce have an enviable record of adapting to circumstances and changing requirements. Their cars have been adapted for use as armoured cars, shooting brakes and, for one Maharaja, one was even modified to look like a swan.

Our favourite modification however is fictional. In Evelyn Waugh's book, "Scoop", the hero has a dowager aunt who is driven around in a chauffeur driven car "modified to her own specific requirements". It had a horn that could be operated from the rear passenger seat!



POINT TO POINT at Cottenham Racecourse

Cambridgeshire Harriers Hunt Club

31st December 2017 11am

Cambridge University Draghounds

10th Feb 2018 12 noon

More info and updates

www.cottenham-racecourse.co.uk

What single thing influenced our ancestors in the choice of sites for houses and villages?

The answer is water. In 1939 a Suffolk Sanitary Inspector reported that the brook from which the villagers of Withersfield relied upon for water was out of use after a dead rat and a cat were found in it. Another report from the previous year found that several villages south of Bury St Edmunds were completely without water as their wells had dried up and the Council would need to deploy water carts.

It is easy to forget, nowadays, how recently it was that many properties in the villages and the countryside did not have a regular supply of piped, clean water.

A 1944 survey reported that, out of 3500 rural households, 1000 did not have a proper water supply and another survey in 1946 reckoned that 47% of farmhouses were without access to a proper water supply.

People without a proper supply took water from wells, springs, rainwater tanks and even village ponds and supplies often contained frogs, insects and weeds.

Local Authorities did their best to supply as many villages as they could with clean piped mains water. However this didn't mean to a tap in every home but to a single communal village standpipe.

Apparently this facility was not extended to the Suffolk village of Earl Stonham whose citizens were so desperate that they petitioned the Minister of Health for a water supply.

By contrast, the villagers of Shepreth held a meeting which voiced wholehearted disapproval of a proposal by South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council to install a piped supply of water to the village. (Apparently, it had been realized that such an installation would be followed by an increase in local rates!).

Even today, in East Anglian villages, it is

still possible to speak to old people who can point out where the village pump, standpipe or well was once situated and tell how, as children in an age when a tap for many was still an unheard of luxury, they had to trudge to and fro with heavy buckets of water to keep their households supplied with what today is considered the most basic of essential amenities... on tap.



The Way Back

One can't open a local newspaper in Cambridge without coming across an article on the lines of "Proposed New Transport Link". Underground tunnels, new roads, new cycle ways and even new rail stations.

Some are dafter than others – one particular piece of lunacy, (now, thank god, abandoned), was a proposal to "ease congestion by closing roads"!

However all this talk of transport reminded us of a delightful, (true), story about a farming family in The Fens in the 1940s.

Their farm was very remote somewhere near the village of Upware (whose motto is "No hurry – 5 miles from anywhere"). The family's three children all went to school in Cambridge but the



first part of their "school run" was somewhat unconventional.

Each morning a large, semi-retired, farm horse was lugged, reluctantly, out of its stable and with the help of a set of steps the three children clambered aboard and sat in a line along the horse's back.

With the children aboard, and with only a head collar and lead rope, the horse then set off on a journey of several

miles to Swaffham Prior railway station, (long gone now). On arrival the children would jump off and put the horse in a paddock, (rented for this very purpose), next to the rail station.

Leaving the horse happily eating its head off, the children would then catch the train, (steam of course), into Cambridge and school. In the late afternoon, the children would return. The long suffering horse would be lagged, reluctantly, out of its paddock and the journey would be reversed with the horse plodding steadily along the empty lanes with the children on its back, sometimes in the dark, fog or even snow but always getting the children safely home to the warmth of the family farmhouse.

Today, that would be known as an "Integrated Transport System"!

Sunshine and Showers

Much fanfare in the media about 2017 being the 30th, (yes, 30th!), anniversary of "The Great Storm" of 1987 famously not forecast by weather forecaster Michael "hurricane" Fish.

Fish, of course, claims that it wasn't actually a hurricane, (well he would wouldn't he!). Apparently, you need seawater of 28°C or over to have a hurricane. This temperature requirement does, of course, make the UK totally unable to officially call anything "a hurricane".

However, looking at old footage of Michael Fish and other forecasters of the 1980s there is one thing that immediately strikes you. They tell you the weather... and that is all they do do.

This is completely different to today's touchy, feely forecasts full of patronising, nannying advice "...do take an umbrella" if rain is forecast. If



sunny "...don't forget the sun cream". If a warm weekend is forecast we are told it is "...a good time to get the barbecue out" and even what to cook on it, "...maybe a sausage or two".

Simplistically, in the Disneyesque world of the modern weather forecaster, WARM is always good, ("..and the good news is, just look at those temperatures"), completely ignoring the fact it might be a grey and uncomfortably humid day!

Similarly COLD is universally bad in a sort of "boo, hiss" sort of way, ("..so do make sure you wrap up well."), even though, to many, a cold crisp sunny day is preferable to a warm grey cloudy day.

The obsession with temperature is actually an anachronism harking back to the days of unheated cars and unheated buildings when the temperature was far more of a concern to people – even indoors.

RAIN, too, is universally undesirable, ("...so don't forget the brolly"), with no account taken of the needs of gardeners and farmers.

There is, however, one phrase used by forecasters today that can be relied upon absolutely. That is when they announce, of an upcoming Bank Holiday, that "it won't be a complete washout".

You know for certain that it will be!

