



Cottingham and Middleton News

November 2013

Available online at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to this, my 50th issue of the village newsletter.

The main talking point in the villages at the moment is clearly the proposed housing development. You can find answers to some of the questions you may have in the centre pages.

You can keep up to date on this and all the latest village news on the village website, where you can also join the village email list to receive updates direct to your inbox.

Jane Smith, Editor

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jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk

Heritage Open Day



Around a dozen villagers recently took the opportunity to explore parts of Cottingham's historic buildings that aren't generally open to the public.

Organised by Chris Owen and led by Elaine England, the tours gave a fascinating insight into the history behind the 13th century cruck beam in the roof at the Royal George, believed to be the oldest in a domestic building in the UK, the stone dovecote off Corby Road, some interesting artefacts and carvings in St Mary Magdalene Church and Chris Owen's own collection of shop signage from the local area.

The event was organised in conjunction with the national Heritage Open Days scheme and Chris hopes to put on another event next year. *Picture by Andy Puchalski*

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Green Horizons for young people *By Andy Gilgrist*



Andy Sawford MP (centre) with Green Horizons families

An empty field on Mill Road is being turned into a haven for children with autism in a pioneering venture by their parents.

Cottingham's Jan and Andy Mears and Lucie Middlebrook have joined forces with three other local families to create the Green Horizons project.

The idea is to give the young people a place where they can develop new horticultural and animal husbandry skills to be active and productive in ways they find fulfilling.

Jan explained: "As children with autism grow up, the help and support they receive during school years comes to an end. For children who will struggle to find conventional employment, the world can become narrower and less welcoming.

"We were all talking about what we could do to give them a more productive future. We don't want them to be limited to what is currently available, or to sit at home all day. We want them to be outside and active doing things that are meaningful and healthy."

Lucie added: "Here at Green Horizons they will be able to grow crops, care for animals, make friendships and gain new skills and knowledge. They can discover and nurture their interests in an environment without pressure."

One young man, Logan Freer, is already enjoying preparing the ground for Green Horizons. Logan, 16, said: "It's going really well. We've been cutting back brambles, haymaking and stacking the bales – which was fun. I'm looking forward to doing lots more of the practical stuff, because that's what I'm interested in."

Green Horizons has already won the support of Corby MP Andy Sawford, who visited the project at an open day in October. He said: "I've got to know several of the parents and have tried to help them with issues around education and the key thing they now talk about – the future for their children.

"It is good to see local people working together to make such a positive project happen. It would be great if the people in the villages show support and help practically. I look forward to coming back to see how much progress has been made at Green Horizons."

The plan is to create several allotment sized plots on a field owned by Andy and Jan, where the young people can grow herbs, vegetables, fruit and flowers, and tend a pony, donkey and poultry, including chickens and ducks.

Green Horizons is applying for grants to pay for an access road to be made and for essentials such as a toilet, water supply and a cabin in which to learn skills such as willow weaving. The group is also keen to hear from anyone who can help with demonstrating skills and donating seeds and old garden tools.

To contact Green Horizons call **Jan or Andy** on **772130** or email administrator@greenhorizons.org.uk

Celebrating 70 years of marriage



Congratulations to Viola and Cyril Liquorish of Berryfield Road who recently celebrated their Platinum (70 year) wedding anniversary, believed to be the first ever in the villages. Among the 79 cards received was one from Her Majesty the Queen. Instead of presents, the couple asked for donations and raised more than £400 for the Methodist Homes for the Aged appeal. Viola and Cyril would like to thank their friends and family who helped make this momentous occasion so memorable.

Parish Councils

Cottingham

Clerk: Peter Taylor
01536 761752, 5 Headlands,
Desborough NN14 2QA

Councillors

Owen Davison (Chairman)
Clive Ashworth (Vice Chairman)
Irene Beadsworth
Trevor Dicken
Joanne Leaning
Terry Mason
John Muir
Dave Sims

Next meeting

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm
www.cottingham.org.uk

Middleton

Clerk: Justina Medwell
01536 771234

Middleton House, Middleton,
LE16 8YU

Councillors

Dryden Phillipson (Chairman)
Sarah Brant (Vice Chairman)
Alan Cole
Georgina Hicks
Zena Taylor

Next meetings

Wed 20 Nov, 7.30pm
Wed 18 Dec, 7.30pm
www.middleton-northants-pc.gov

All meetings are held at the
Village Hall Annex, next to the
school.

Parish Council news

Cottingham Parish Council has welcomed two new councillors, John Muir (Berryfield Road) and Trevor Dicken (Stonepit Drive).

Trevor says he's joined Cottingham Parish Council to try and give a bit back to the community, help preserve the best of village life and represent local concerns.

Cottingham Parish Council currently has one vacancy and Middleton Parish Council has two. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact your Parish Clerk (details above).

Proposed housing development - Q&A

Produced in conjunction with Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils

You will no doubt all be aware of the proposed housing development on land to the rear of Cottingham Hall, that was originally the subject of a planning application in 2005/6. That original application was rejected by Corby Borough Council, mainly due to it being an unsustainable development in open countryside and because it would cause an unacceptable increase in traffic.

This article seeks to address some of the questions you may have about the proposals. This newsletter has actively sought clarification from the landowner's representatives, Peter Brett Associates (PBA), on a number of questions but at the time of writing, and despite several emails and phone messages, there has been no response.

Is the proposed development the same as the previous application?

The only difference appears to be that there are slightly fewer houses involved. The 2005/6 application was for 80 to 90 houses, whereas this proposal is for 60 to 80 houses. The current landowners might develop the site themselves but if outline planning permission is granted, they might decide to sell to another developer.

What is the current planning policy in relation to this proposal?

There have been some major changes to planning policy recently. Local and regional planning guidelines still advise against development outside village boundaries, but local authorities now need to demonstrate a '5 year supply' of housing land. If they can't, then the National Planning Policy Framework (introduced in March 2012) says that planning applications should be considered in the context of 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', seemingly regardless of local and regional planning guidelines.

Local authorities will still continue to make planning decisions based on local and regional planning guidelines. However, if an application is refused and an appeal is lodged, there have been cases where the Planning Inspectorate has approved developments adjoining villages if a 5 year supply of housing land cannot be demonstrated.

The 5-year housing target for Corby is out of date and has been revised in an interim policy statement produced by the North Northants Joint Planning Unit in August 2013. Corby can demonstrate a 5-year supply against the revised targets, but we don't know how much weight will be given to this interim statement, as it has not yet been adopted.

Please see the village website for more detail on the planning framework, as it applies to this proposal.

Is there an identified need for housing in Cottingham and Middleton?

PBA's exhibition refers to an "*identified local housing need in Cottingham*", but there does not seem to be any evidence to support this. In fact, Cottingham and Middleton's Parish Plans – which are based on villagers' actual feedback – demonstrate that the quantity and mix of houses in the villages is sufficient for present and future needs. A housing needs analysis carried out in Middleton in 2011 also confirmed that there is no local need for additional housing in Middleton. The Parish Councils are not aware that any other housing needs assessments have been carried out that demonstrate otherwise.

What about affordable housing?

PBA states that "*the development would seek to provide a range of new housing of varying sizes and tenures, including a proportion of affordable housing, dependent upon local requirements*". 'Affordable housing' has a very specific definition and does not mean small houses that local youngsters could afford to buy. The Government defines affordable housing as "*social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices*".

Does this site have special landscape significance?

The site sits within a Special Landscape Area that, as part of the Rockingham Forest and Welland Valley, has a high level of environmental and historic sensitivity. The North Northants Core Spatial Strategy lists the Jurassic Way that runs adjacent to the site as a key piece of Green Infrastructure – a Sub Regional Corridor – and the strategy's Policy 5 seeks to protect such corridors from inappropriate development. The Parish Councils are working with environmental experts to advise on this important area and await PBA's ecological survey with interest, when it is submitted with the outline planning application.

Could the village benefit from money to improve facilities as a result of the development?

With a development of this scale, there will be a requirement for a developer (who will not necessarily be the current landowner) to pay a sum of money to fund community improvements, often referred to as 'Section 106'. However, it is our understanding that a developer cannot promise or dictate how or where this funding is used – it will go into a central pot at Corby Borough Council (CBC) and could well be used to fund improvements elsewhere in the borough. There is a new provision called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that local authorities can apply for. In theory, this gives local communities more say on how community funding is spent, but there is no indication that CBC has adopted CIL or whether it will apply in this case.



View across proposed development site from the Jurassic Way

How will PBA use the feedback they receive?

Following the introduction of the Localism Act in 2011, developers are now legally required to demonstrate that they have consulted with the local community on major developments. They must produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and submit this with their planning application. Despite being asked specifically, PBA has not indicated how any feedback will be presented, particularly if it is critical of what is proposed.

Why are the Parish Councils opposing the proposal?

The Parish Councils have made their decision based on their understanding of villagers' general views on development (contained in the Parish Plans for Cottingham and Middleton) and villagers' opposition to the previous planning application. This is mainly based on the highly

detrimental impact a development of this kind would have on the lives of local people, the local environment and the community's infrastructure.

Will there be a public meeting?

Not at this stage as the Parish Councils are working hard researching issues relating to the proposals, including current planning legislation and environmental considerations, so they can give you all the facts. They are liaising with the local planning authority, Borough Councillor Bob Riley, independent experts and other organisations to prepare for when the planning application is submitted.

What happens next?

The next step will be the submission of an outline planning application (OPA). We expect this to be in December, possibly in the New Year. When it is submitted, the Parish Councils and villagers will again be invited to express their views, this time to Corby Borough Council, which is the local planning authority. We will keep you fully informed as things happen.

Will there be a petition to sign?

The two Parish Councils are working on a petition that will give you the opportunity to express your views in favour of or against the proposal. However, this needs careful thought and the Parish Councils have been advised to hold it back until the OPA has been submitted, so the petition can reflect the content of the application.

Is there anything I can do?

If you have any specialist knowledge that you feel would be of help in building a case in relation to this development, please contact your Parish Council Chairman as follows.

- **Councillor Owen Davison**, Chairman, Cottingham Parish Council, Wood Hollow, Church Street, Cottingham, LE16 8XG, email: owen.davison@cottingham.org.uk, tel: 01536 771333
- **Councillor Dryden Phillipson**, Chairman, Middleton Parish Council, 1 Cannam Close, Middleton, LE16 8YS, email dryden.phillipson@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk, tel: 01536 770950

Please also get in touch if you can help in any other way, e.g. distributing leaflets, collecting petition forms. And, so we can keep you fully up to date with what's happening with this development, please join the village email list by following the instructions on the village website.

Keep your eye on the village website for the latest news.



The William Riddell Trust

Every August, the William Riddell Trust invites further education students from Middleton to apply for a grant. Having just given grants to everyone who applied this academic year, the trustees would like to remind everyone how the trust started and ask for your help to continue William Riddell's good work.

In 1727, William Riddell founded a charity, leaving a sum of money and a field for training the apprentices of Middleton. In return, the will requested that the trust look after his grave in Cottingham church yard. Almost 400 years on, the trust safeguards the capital and the field and deals with applicants, and the trust's Chairman Paul Atkins (left) tends

the grave. The trust has just helped six students buy books and equipment. The amount given varies annually, depending on the number of applicants and interest rates.

If you've had a grant in the past, the trustees would love to hear from you. They'd also really appreciate donations so they can keep going for at least another 400 years. Please contact the trust's Clerk **Kay Dickens** if you can help on **771067**.



Hoard of the Harvest

75 people came along to the recent Harvest Supper at St Mary Magdalene Church, that raised a fantastic £910 for

Corby Food Bank and the charity Water Aid. Thanks to everyone who helped organise and support the evening, especially those who cooked the delicious food!

Quiz goes to the dogs!

Ant Liqourish's October quiz raised £150 for the Dogs Trust with the winning team, Dick's Angels, dropping just 9 points out of a possible 300. Thanks to all the teams that took part and everyone who helped organise.

Sid says thanks

Sidney Beecroft would like to thank the residents of Ripley Road for donating £70 to his annual collection for Marie Curie Cancer Care. "The average collector collects £40," said Sid, "so thanks to all the people who gave so generously - you are up there with the league leaders!"

Recreation ground and new village hall project

Following a meeting with New Cottingham FC, the working group is considering including sports changing facilities as part of the hall design, dependent on costs and user demand. The architects have drawn up a new ground floor plan to show how the changing rooms would be incorporated. The architects are also now preparing a detailed planning application based on the plans shown on the village website.

The working group will soon be presenting designs for older children's play equipment to Corby Borough Council Culture and Leisure. Some grant funding is available from the borough, but it is intended to apply for further funding from the WREN Environmental Body.

Middleton Orchard

Middleton Parish Council has applied to the Woodland Trust for a free wildlife hedgerow pack for planting along the Glover Court side of the pocket park's wooden fence. The pack contains hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, silver birch, rowan and common oak. Young volunteers will be sought to do the planting in Spring 2014.

What's on

See www.cottinghamnews.co.uk for latest events

Sat 9 Nov, 7.30am for 8pm

Del's Souper Quiz Village Hall Annex



Come along to Del Robertson's third 'souper' general knowledge quiz. You can have up to six people on your team and the cost is £2 per person. Bring your own drinks (including alcohol) and nibbles. There will be home made soup and a roll available for £1.50 at half time, plus a wine prize for the winning team. All proceeds go to the Village Hall Annex.

Sun 10 Nov, 10.45am

Remembrance Sunday



A joint remembrance service between St Mary Magdalene and the Methodist Church is being held at the war memorial outside the school to honour the men and women who gave their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sat 16 Nov, 10am to 1pm

Tasting day, Village Store & Cafe

Come along and sample some of the newest products available at the Village Store and Café. Breads, pies, cheese and more will be available to try and you can meet the people behind the products too.



The makers of Hambleton bread, Brockleby's pies and Grasmere Farm sausages will be on

hand to talk about how they rear, grow and make their tasty treats. The shop's cheese supplier, Stamford's Cheese Cellar, will also have lots of artisan varieties to taste.

There will be lots more to try and the shop team will be very keen to hear what you think. The tasting is free and everyone is welcome.

19 and 21 Nov, 6.15 to 7.30pm

Valley Voice, Rockingham Castle



The Valley Voice choir will be singing in the courtyard at Rockingham Castle for their 'Victorian Christmas' event. For more information, see www.rockinghamcastle.com

Sat 30 Nov, 11.30am to 2.30pm

Green Horizons Christmas Fair Village Hall Annex

The Green Horizons project (see page 1) would like to invite you to take part in, and shop at, a fundraising Christmas Fair. Tables will be available for £5 for local craftspeople to sell Christmas gifts and cards. Contact **Jan** or **Andy** on **772130**, email administrator@greenhorizons.org.uk



Sat 7 Dec, 2 to 4pm

Christmas Fayre Cottingham School Hall



Come along to Cottingham School for some festive family fun. Try your luck on the chocolate tombola, turn water into wine, win a prize on the raffle or take your pick in the children's lucky dip!

This is a perfect opportunity to fill your Christmas stockings with items from the ever popular 'Made in the Villages' stall and for the children to visit Father Christmas in his grotto. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine, tea or coffee and perhaps a mince pie or two while the children are entertained making their own Christmas cards and other Advent crafts.

The event is being organised by Cottingham C of E Primary School, with support from St Mary Magdalene Church. All proceeds will go to the school.



Kids of Steel

A group of 16 children from Cottingham C of E Primary School recently took part in the 7th annual Kids of Steel Triathlon in Corby.

Organised through a partnership with British Triathlon and Tata Steel, the event introduces youngsters to triathlon, which consists of 3 disciplines – running, swimming and cycling - in a safe and fun environment. All the children did well and completed all the disciplines.

Useful Contacts

Northants Police **101**

Corby BC Neighbourhood Warden
(Jim McCabe) **01536 464619**

Street Doctor (Northants CC)
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor

Clr Bob Riley, Corby Borough Council,
01536 771881, bob.riley@corby.gov.uk

Down Your Way correspondent for
Evening Telegraph, Pete Bowman,
770821, pete@cottinghamnews.co.uk
3 Corby Road, LE16 8XH

Village Store and Café, **770097**
www.thevillagestoreandcafe.com

Village Hall Annex
Audrey Ashworth, **771084**

Methodist Hall
Wendy Curtis, **771987**

Rev Sian Reading, **770237**
sianreading@tinyonline.co.uk

Clubs and Groups

Over 60s Club
Audrey Ashworth, **771084**

Minerva Group & Whist Drives
Pam Moore, **770022**

WRVS, Sue Jefferson, **771822**

Mums and Tots
Sandra Battersby, **770184**

Cubs and Scouts
Gary Chisholm, **772331**

Youth Club
David Swallow, **771796**

'Valley Voice', village choir
Pete Smith, psmith1309@hotmail.co.uk

Wesley Guild
Cyril Liquorish, **771401**

Sunday Clubs - St Mary's
Ruth Colby, **770178**

Rockingham Forest Wheelers
Norman Needham, **771356**

New Cottingham FC
Neil Jarman, **07708 323077**

Cottingham youth football
Mark Steiner, **07731 385107**

Royal George Golf Society
Norman Golding, **771081**

Blackthorn Wood Pool Team
George Barker, **07904 954040**

East Carlton Cricket Club
Sharon Jantzen, **771371**

East Carlton Health Walking Group
Noel Rogers, **771837**