



# Cottingham and Middleton News

May/June 2014

Available online at [www.cottinghamnews.co.uk](http://www.cottinghamnews.co.uk)

## Lest we forget



Former villager Chris Blenkarn (who is the daughter of the late Arthur and Sylvia Bell) is developing a website dedicated to the memory of the World War I servicemen commemorated on the Cottingham and Middleton war memorial, those that survived and their extended families.

Each record covers the soldier's military career, family background and, where appropriate, the place where he is commemorated.

If anyone can spare a little time to look for obituaries in the 1914 to 1919 Evening Telegraph (that's not yet been digitised), help with research or provide more information, please email Chris at [chris.blenkarn@ntlworld.com](mailto:chris.blenkarn@ntlworld.com) or call her on **07505 122035**.

The website will be live shortly at [www.cottinghamsoldiers.org.uk](http://www.cottinghamsoldiers.org.uk)

## In memory

Lilian Lawson and her family have donated two trees, a horse chestnut and an English oak, that have now been planted in the Dale in memory of her late husband, Eric Lawson. Lilian is pictured here in front of the trees.



**Contact: Jane Smith, Editor**  
3 Corby Road, tel: 770821  
[jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk](mailto:jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk)

**Next issue: July 2014**

## Village Store and Café prospers *by Andy Gilgrist*

The Village Store and Café had its best ever month in March and, now in profit, the future is looking rosy.

The store's new week day manager, Nicola Gumbeer from Church Street (right), says it's lovely being part of the village community and working with all the volunteers.

A teacher by profession, Nicola has lived in Cottingham for 12 years with her family and started volunteering when her youngest started school. "I get to chat to so many people, as lots of villagers love having the shop and café to pop into," she said. "We all feel we are helping to nurture something very helpful and positive for Cottingham and Middleton."



The new focus on local and artisan products, plus fresh fruit and veg from Leicester Market, has boosted takings, as has using the best ingredients in the café's food and drinks.

"We are using more of our premium shop products in the café, including Hambleton breads, local cheeses, Grasmere hams and bacon," said Nicola, "and we've got new items on the menu, too. There are bacon, sausage and egg rolls and proper sandwiches, such as a freshly made BLT.

"There will be quiches and salads as summer arrives, and afternoon teas. With Saturday brunch very popular and offering an all round wider choice, the café is busier than ever. Make sure to try our new milk shakes made with real ice cream."

## Join the team

With an increasing number of villagers spending more money and time in store, the team of volunteers is certainly being kept busy!

Helping out in the shop is a great way to meet people, learn some new skills and support this fantastic community-owned and run enterprise. If you'd like to volunteer and become part of this friendly, enthusiastic team, please get in touch with **Jake Raj** on **07803 701514**. In particular, the store is looking for people who can take on a regular slot at weekends. Volunteers need only give a regular hour or two a week to play a highly valued role in a village success story, making new friends along the way.

The Village Store & Café also still has a paid vacancy for a weekend manager to work on Saturdays and Sundays. If you're interested, contact **David Swallow** on **771796**. [www.thevillagestoreandcafe.co.uk](http://www.thevillagestoreandcafe.co.uk)

## New landlords at the Royal George

Hollie Calver and James Green, who started running the Royal George in March, will soon be taking on the lease for the pub. The couple are planning to refurbish the George (having already upgraded the accommodation) and, under the supervision of new Head Chef Andy Wilkins, will soon be introducing a new menu. They will also be putting on a mini beer festival from 6 to 8 June with a BBQ and live music. Pop in and say hello!

[www.royalgeorgecottingham.co.uk](http://www.royalgeorgecottingham.co.uk)



## We are sailing!



Being about as far from the sea as you can get in England, you may be surprised to learn that a Middleton couple have just set up a new sailing business!

Stuart and Helen Appleby of Main Street will be spending their weekends in Southampton taking people on sailing adventures around the Solent, aboard their new luxury yacht 'Clearwater'.

"We love adventure, travelling and sailing and wanted to offer the opportunity to others, particularly to people who would like to give it a try but don't know where to start," said Helen.

The yacht sleeps up to 6 and can take 8 people for a day trip.

For more information, call **07979 537648** or visit [www.clearwater.co.uk](http://www.clearwater.co.uk)

## Survey update

Thanks to the 62 people who completed the recent **Cottingham Parking Survey**. The forms are just being analysed and the results will be made available as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, response to the **Cottingham skate park survey** to find out what kind of facility (if any) young people would like to see in the village has drawn very little response. This project is likely to cost in the region of £90,000, requiring significant fundraising efforts before grants can be applied for. Put simply, it just can't and won't happen unless young people show their commitment and get involved.

If you're interested and would like to see this happen, please email [suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk)

## Restaurant pops up for teenage trio *by Andy Gilgrist*



Three teenage volunteers received a helping hand towards their fundraising for a school trip to Australia when the Village Store and Café hosted its second pop-up restaurant in April.

The fine food with a French flavour drew in plenty of hungry villagers who were served at their tables by the trio of Anna Hart, Eliza Hudson and Nathaniel George.

All the proceeds from the events went to the teenagers' expedition funds as a thank you for their regular and long-standing volunteering in the shop and café.

Held over two evenings, the pop-up welcomed 40 diners who were treated to a four course menu plus cheese and petits fours. Cooked by Andy Gilgrist and Lee Gray (pictured above) and Jake Raj, the menu was a tarte au pistou with wild garlic, bouillabaisse Cottingham, a cassoulet de printemps featuring duck confit, and profiteroles.

Everyone involved worked hard to transform the shop into a stylish bistro each evening and back again. There was plenty of effort too in Cottingham kitchens as duck legs were salted and fried, and countless profiteroles baked.

Feedback was very good and it was great to see the Village Store and Café being so well used for a great event, which saw £200 donated to each of the teenagers towards their trip of a lifetime.



## Proposed development - land off Bury Close, Cottingham

Here is an update from Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils.

- Villagers have shown their overwhelming objection to this development, with 489 people signing the petition and 215 representations (mostly objections) submitted to the planning authority, Corby Borough Council (CBC). This includes objections from Cottingham, Middleton, Wilbarston and Ashley Parish Councils, East Carlton Health Walking Group, Northants Ramblers Association, Wildlife Trust, Northants Bat Group, Stephen Craik of Cottingham Hall and local Conservative candidate Tom Pursglove. Andy Sawford MP has also written to CBC to ask them to ensure the views of local people are considered carefully when making a decision on this planning application.
- In their consultee response to CBC, English Heritage has expressed concern that no proper heritage assessment has been provided. They have also advised the council to request more detail in order to establish the impact of the proposal on the nearby heritage assets, including the Grade 2\* listed Cottingham Hall.
- CBC's Head of Planning has advised the applicant that, due to the potential impact this development would have on the historic and natural environment, they will not make a decision on it until a more detailed layout and landscaping plan has been provided. If this information is significant, further notification and consultation will be required.
- As mentioned in the last newsletter, the applicant's main planning argument for approval of this development would seem to be that CBC is not able to demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing land, against targets published in 2008. However, CBC can meet the revised targets contained in a more recent Interim Housing Statement (IHS). Encouragingly, the Planning Inspector recently dismissed an appeal for a very similar housing development in the village of Broughton near Kettering, saying that the IHS represents an objective assessment of the housing needs of the area and is therefore of significant material consideration.

Dryden Phillipson, Chairman of Middleton Parish Council, said: "I'd like to thank the working group and all the villagers who've supported the campaign so far by knocking on doors to gather names for the petition, signing the petition, sending in objections, providing expert input, gathering support from influential people and groups, and liaising with the local media. Together, we have made a very good case and we now await the council's decision with interest."

You can see the Broughton appeal decision, key objection letters, correspondence and media coverage on the Cottingham and Middleton village website.

## Cottingham School is looking Good !



Corby MP Andy Sawford visited Cottingham C of E Primary School in March to talk to the children about his role in Parliament and help them celebrate their success in a recent Ofsted inspection.

The MP spent an hour with the school's Hawthorn Class in a week when the school was also celebrating having achieved a 'Good' Ofsted report, just four years on from being placed in special measures.

Andy said: "This is a great school. There is a good atmosphere and I am really amazed at

what a wide ranging discussion we had - from whether Corby needs a toy shop to taxation, Scottish Independence and the Crimea. Cottingham has done really well to become a 'Good' school and I'd like to offer my congratulations to the teachers, the children and their parents, because everyone has been part of this fantastic achievement."

Emma Tayler, who joined as headteacher just after the school went into special measures in 2010, said: "Andy's visit to the school was an exciting occasion for us. The children really enjoyed meeting him and certainly asked him some thoughtful and interesting questions.

"We are also delighted to have made the enormous leap to become a 'Good' school in a climate where expectations are being driven up and the framework is becoming more challenging. This success has been down to great effort and teamwork, along with a focus on the quality of the curriculum, teaching and learning. We expect the best from our children - not just academically, but across the board. The emphasis we have placed on sport and music, for example, has really helped to build the children's confidence and self belief, and this makes a real difference.

"Our Ofsted success is thanks to all the hard work of everyone in the school, but we are not complacent, we will keep working to become an 'Outstanding' school."

*Picture shows Andy Sawford MP and school headteacher Emma Tayler with Adam Sherlock (age 10), Imogen Dee (age 9) and Emma Preston-Jones (age 10).*

## Down in the Dale by Chris Owen, Co-ordinator, Friends of the Dale



Two botanist plant recorders for the county visited the Dale recently to update the list of plant species growing there. In Springtime, the Dale is home to sweet violets, lady's smock, cowslips, native bluebells, buttercups, bee orchids and rare meadow saxifrage.

In order to keep this beautiful natural meadow in tip-top condition for everyone to enjoy, we would ask you to please observe a few simple rules:

- Please don't pick the wild flowers (it is actually illegal to remove them) or plant garden species (e.g. Spanish bluebells) in the Dale, that may crossbreed with our native flowers or are inappropriate.
- Dog owners, please don't let your dog defecate on the main path up the Dale. It's getting very messy and may carry a disease that causes cattle to miscarry.
- Please take your litter, or any you come across, out of the Dale and bin it.

April sees the start of this year's cattle grazing in the Dale, which is needed to keep coarse grasses in check alongside our control of ragwort, nettles and brambles. This year should see the return of the 'resting' of the meadow, free from grazing for several weeks in the summer and coinciding with part of the school holiday. The possible revival of the summer Village Picnic is also being considered.

The cattle are rare breed English Longhorns. Their horns may look scary, but they are fairly placid, although they may get agitated by dogs when they have very young calves. If you have your dog on a lead and a cow runs at you, it's probably best to let go of the dog so the cow will lose interest in you - your dog can outrun cows.

*You can see Chris Owen's full report on the village website.*

## It's behind you!

A group of enthusiastic and experienced amateur dramatic villagers are considering reviving the village pantomime, that took place for a number of years under the directorship of Clive Ashworth. If you're interested in getting involved, either in an acting capacity or helping behind the scenes, please contact Del Robertson on **07927 179921**, email **delboy639@gmail.com**

## Ant's quiz tops £200

Over £200 was raised for the Finedon Local Historical Society at Ant Licquorish's 44<sup>th</sup> quiz night in April. 16 teams took part and, in a closely fought challenge, *The Scatter Brains* just beat *We Live in a Con-Dem Nation* into first place by one point, scoring 263 out of a possible 300. Many thanks to all who made the evening such a success.

Ant's next quiz will take place on 25 October and is in aid of the Corby and District Lions club.

## Message from Councillor Bob Riley



"I have been proud to represent the Rural West Ward, that covers Cottingham and Middleton. I was elected a Liberal Democrat Councillor to Corby Borough

Council at the May 2011 election. At that time I felt the Liberal Democrats could deliver a stronger economy and fairer society but have been left very disappointed by coalition government policies and their impact on our society.

"Over the last 3 years I have increasingly realised that the Labour Party represents what I stand for which is fairness and equality for all sections of society. Our MP Andy Sawford and my fellow Labour councillors share my values of compassion and love of the environment. I genuinely feel that I can more effectively represent the needs of the residents living in this rural ward alongside my new colleagues. I have therefore made the decision to follow my conscience and join the Labour Party.

"I would like to thank you for your continued support and reassure you of my commitment to serve you and our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this or any other issues."

*Yours sincerely, Bob Riley*

# What's on

See [www.cottinghamnews.co.uk](http://www.cottinghamnews.co.uk) for latest events

**Fri 30 May and Sat 28 Jun  
(3.30pm)**

## Police surgeries, Village Store



Our local Community Police Support Officer Mark Tooley will be holding police surgeries at the Cottingham and Middleton Village Store and Café. Please feel free to drop in for a chat.

**Sun 1 June, 6.30pm**

## Valley Voice, St Mary Magdalene



The village choir, who recently came runners up at the Kettering Eisteddfod, will perform songs related to the seasons and weather. There will also be guest performances from instrumentalists including local folk group *The Point Road*, a saxophone quartet and a group of ukulele players who will be leading an audience sing-along.

Tickets are £8 including cheese, biscuits and a glass of wine. Contact **Joanne** on **770913**, email [joanne.leaning@btinternet.com](mailto:joanne.leaning@btinternet.com)

## Wed 4 June - Gift craft

Try your hand at unusual ideas for creating personalised gifts for friends and family.



## Wed 2 July - Altered perceptions

Mind control and how it works. Illusions, their explanations and uses for our lives.

Both events take place at Ashley Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Contact **Wendy Martin** on **0780 119 4560** or email [wendy10ecp@gmail.com](mailto:wendy10ecp@gmail.com)

## Bowled over

The cricket season has just started. If you fancy catching a match down at East Carlton Cricket Club, the fixtures are available in the What's On section of the village website. The next home games are on 25 May, 8, 15 and 29 June, 6 and 20 July.



**Sat 7 June**

## Sounds of Simon, East Carlton Cricket Club



A fantastic opportunity to see the UK's leading Simon and Garfunkel tribute act. Tickets, including supper, are £10 from **Sally** on **771733**.

**Sat 21 June**

## Village Wine Safari



Tickets for this year's Wine Safari are now on sale at £17.50 each. Contact **Kirsty Swallow** on **771796**. All proceeds go to the Church.

**Fri 4 July**

## Seagrave Singers Village Hall Annex



The Seagrave Singers ladies choir will be presenting a selection of songs with an American theme. Tickets are £6 each from **Irene** on **770059** or **Audrey** on **771084**.

**Sat 5 July, 12 noon**

## Village Fete

Cottingham C of E Primary School and St Mary Magdalene Church are joining forces again to stage this year's Village Fete.

There will be a beer tent, tea room, barbecue, bouncy castle, games, stalls and the Pets Cuddle Corner from West Lodge Farm Park. Peter Stevens will also make a welcome return with his miniature steam engine. Village groups and organisations have been invited to host a stall or game so there's sure to be something for everyone on the day.

An A5 event guide will be delivered to every house in the villages before the Fete. If you'd like to advertise in the guide, prices start at £20 for a quarter page up to £50 for a full page (copy deadline 14 June). Or, if you'd like to make a donation or provide a raffle prize, all contributions will be acknowledged in the event guide.

The organisers are looking to top the record £3,687 raised from last year's Fete. This year, proceeds will be used to buy musical instruments for the school, starting with guitars, so more children have the chance to learn an instrument. The Church will use the funds for repair and upkeep.

For more information, to advertise in the guide or make a donation, please contact **Angela Preston Jones** on [p.j55@btinternet.com](mailto:p.j55@btinternet.com), telephone **0759 468 2671**.

## Useful Contacts

Northants Police **101**

Neighbourhood Management Team (Suzanne Preston) **463177**, email [suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk)

Street Doctor (Northants CC) [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor)

Cllr Bob Riley, Corby Borough Council, **01536 771881**, [bob.riley@corby.gov.uk](mailto:bob.riley@corby.gov.uk)

Down Your Way correspondent for Northants Telegraph, Del Robertson, **07927 179921**, [delboy639@gmail.com](mailto:delboy639@gmail.com)

Village Store and Café, **770097** [www.thevillagestoreandcafe.com](http://www.thevillagestoreandcafe.com)

Village Hall Annex  
Audrey Ashworth, **771084**

Methodist Hall  
Wendy Curtis, **771987**

St Mary Magdalene Church  
Ruth Colby, **771078**, [ruthcolby2@gmail.com](mailto:ruthcolby2@gmail.com) or Rev Sian Reading, **770237**, [sjmr216@btinternet.com](mailto:sjmr216@btinternet.com)

## Clubs and Groups

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

WRVS, Sue Jefferson, **771822**

Cubs and Scouts  
Gary Chisholm, **772331**

Youth Club  
David Swallow, **771796**

'Valley Voice', village choir  
Pete Smith, [psmith1309@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:psmith1309@hotmail.co.uk)

Wesley Guild  
Cyril Liguorish, **771401**

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**

## Parish Council meetings

Cottingham - 4 June and 2 July  
Middleton - 18 June and 16 July  
Meetings starts at 7.30pm at the Village Hall Annex.