



Cottingham and Middleton News

December 2010

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The recent flurry of snow has certainly given the village an early festive feel and there's plenty happening in the villages

over the next few weeks to help keep you in the Christmas spirit.

The local pubs and Valley Voice choir are all pulling out the stops to keep you entertained, so please support them if you can.

Over the next few weeks, I'm planning to add more pics of recent events to the village website. If you have any pics from recent events that you'd like to share with villagers, please email them to me at the address below - resized to around 40Kb if possible - and I will consider them for the website.

I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the newsletter this year and, in particular, my guest correspondents Andy Gilgrist and Steph Brown. Thanks too to Ann Davison who's done a sterling job managing the newsletter distribution for the past six years. This crucial role has now been taken on by Irene Beadsworth for Cottingham and Del Robertson for Middleton - thanks to Irene and Del and also to all the people who deliver the newsletter to your door, including Rob Cross who's agreed to take on Ann's round for Glover Court. We couldn't do this without you! All we need now is a couple of reserves who can help out managing the distribution if Irene or Del are on holiday. Please contact me if you can help out.

And finally, I'd like to wish all villagers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - enjoy!

Regards,

Jane Smith, Editor

3 Corby Road, tel 770821, email jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk

Next issue: February 2010

Comfort and joy

Our very own Valley Voice choir were entertaining the throngs at Rockingham Castle's Victorian Christmas event recently.

Accompanied by their new pianist Stuart Hayday, the choir made a stirring sound with an array of Christmas carols that enchanted visitors. If you missed them, the choir will be touring the village pubs on Friday 17 December - see the back page for timings.



BT 'Race to Infinity' - faster broadband - vote now

BT's 'Race to Infinity' is offering five rural telephone exchanges the chance to be placed top of the list for the roll-out of super fast, fibre optic cable broadband, plus the chance to submit a proposal to win £5,000 of computer equipment for a community project.

All you need to do to be in the race is to cast a vote (one per household) for the Rockingham Exchange (covering Cottingham, Middleton, East Carlton, Rockingham, Great Easton, Caldecott and Gretton). Simply log on to www.racetoinfinity.com and follow the instructions, or text INFINITY followed by your NAME POSTCODE and HOUSE NUMBER to **80010**.

At the time of writing, 425 votes have been cast for the Rockingham exchange, which is a good start - but we need more, and fast! First, we need at least 1,000 votes to qualify, and then we'll most likely need more than that if we are to come in the top five. Winning exchanges will be judged on the percentage of votes cast compared to the number of houses in the exchange (there are 1,914 houses in the Rockingham exchange).

So, if you're fed up with the slow speed of broadband in the villages, now's your chance to make a difference. Vote now and encourage your friends and neighbours to do the same. Or, if you don't have a computer or mobile phone, ask a relative or friend to vote for you and help your community. They only need your surname, postcode and house number.

The deadline is **31 December 2010** so we don't have much time left - don't delay, please vote now!

Your Village Hall Annex needs you!

The Village Hall Annex has been putting on some great events recently, but these events don't just happen – a lot of work goes into organising and supporting them – for example printing and selling tickets, staffing the hall on the night and cleaning up afterwards.

For over 30 years the Annex has been run by a small band of enthusiastic volunteers, but none of these stalwarts are getting any younger, so new blood is needed. If any villagers could spare a little time to help out, please email **Mike Curtis** at wendymichael80@yahoo.co.uk or call **Clive Ashworth** on **771084**.

And don't forget, the Village Hall Annex is a great venue for your special event, birthday party or anniversary. To book the Annex, call **Pam Moore** on **770022**. Prices are £7.50 an hour for the main room (pictured) or small meeting room, or £15 for both rooms.



Parish Councils

Cottingham

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

Next meetings:

Wed 5 Jan, 7.30pm
Wed 2 Feb, 7.30pm

Middleton

Clerk: Justina Medwell
01536 771234
Middleton House, Middleton,
LE16 8YU

Next meetings:

Wed 19 Jan, 7.30pm
Wed 16 Feb, 7.30pm

Grit Boxes

As the current cold snap continues, please be aware that the grit in the County Council roadside boxes are for use on the public highways only and **not** for personal use on private paths, driveways etc.

Churchyard maintenance

Concerns have been raised recently over the state of the footpaths in the village churchyard, which can become slippery and dangerous, especially in the winter months. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will be meeting with Corby Borough Council shortly to discuss these issues and see what action, if any, needs to be taken.

Churchyard maintenance is currently funded by the PCC and our two Parish Councils. However, if any major repair works are required, it is likely that additional funding will be needed in order to keep the churchyard accessible. We will keep you informed.

Rural Police update

From PCSO Mark Tooley



We've had a couple of incidents of theft from vehicles and a theft of items from a freezer in the villages during November. Similar offences were committed in the run up to Christmas last year and the year before, so please can you ensure your vehicles are locked and secured with all valuable items removed. Also, please ensure your homes are secured when you're not in and, if you're going away, then ideally make a neighbour aware. If you see anyone or any vehicles in the villages acting in a manner that causes concern, then please give us a call on **03000 111 222**.

Coming out to Play!

By Steph Brown

Ever wondered where your National Lottery money is spent? Well some of it ends up very close to home - the Cottingham recreation field in fact. Every Thursday, come rain and probably snow in the upcoming weeks, the Play Rangers scheme offers a free activities club for children aged 8 to 14.

From 3.30pm to 5.30pm, a group of Play Rangers from Corby Borough Council runs numerous activities with equipment such as ropes, skateboards and den building materials, currently for groups of up to 20 children, but they're always looking for more youngsters to join in.

The Play Ranger van travels the surrounding areas providing free activities to children six days a week and, during the winter months, children are able to roast marshmallows and tell creepy stories around a small fire.

The Play Rangers will be visiting the Cottingham playing field through until March 2011. So make the most of this fantastic opportunity while you can. For more information, contact **Kevin Williams** on **01536 464188**.



Village on song



The Old Time Music Hall held at St Mary Magdalene Church in October was a huge success. The performers played to a packed house and £937 was raised for Church funds. Thanks to Pauline Youngs for organising the event, MC Owen Davison and everyone who performed or supported the event. More pictures will soon be available online at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk/photogallery.



Thanks too to everyone who came along to see local band 'The Cat Came Back' at the Village Hall Annex recently. It was a great gig and the event raised £535 for the village choir, Valley Voice. The money has been used to buy music reading lights for outside concerts.

Cash for teenagers

By Andy Gilgrist

Teenagers are usually pretty handy at spending money – ask any parent. So here's a challenge for our own young people.

The villages have £7,500 to spend on stuff to do for teenagers, thanks to the Money 4 Youth fund. And while several good uses have been found for some of the money, after consultation with local teenagers, there is plenty left to spend.

With the deadline for spending the money now appearing on the horizon, it's time to appeal again for individuals and groups to come forward to pitch for the cash. So far, money has been put aside for improving the sports field and equipping the new shop's community room with computers, games and musical equipment for use by teenagers. Now the organisers want more young people to come forward to claim the rest of the cash by having good ideas for what to spend it on.

David Swallow, Parish Councillor and one of the founders of the youth club, said: "Corby Borough Council had more than £90,000 to allocate to Money 4 Youth ideas, and it is to the credit of the teenagers involved in our bid that we got so much. If you consider there may only be a few dozen 13 to 19 year olds in the villages, £7,500 is a very healthy sum to have secured. Now we want more teenagers – and their parents – to follow that example by coming forward with their own ideas on what to spend it on. Please, don't be reticent – get in touch."

There are two broad areas where we need teens and their parents to get creative. First, setting up new sports or social clubs. Second, pursuing individual talents.

New sports and social clubs

There are three chunks of £500 each to be used to set up sporting or social clubs – for example, we are exploring setting up a boxing club – but there is still money to be allocated. So if there are any potential coaches who would like to start a sports or social club aimed at young people, this is your chance. It could be anything from archery to yachting.

Individual grants

There is £1,500 available for up to 15 grants for individual personal development – this could be to help develop a teenager's particular talent. It could be a musician who could benefit from extra lessons, a teenager who is very good at a sport but could do even better with a piece of specialist equipment or with help to fund travel to competitions. Training courses are another idea – perhaps to become a sports coach.

"These individual grants are for teenagers who have shown they have great potential in a particular endeavour, where the money will help them take their skills to a higher level," said David. "Even if you just have the faintest inkling of an idea, get in touch and we'll help you work up your idea. There are no complicated forms to fill in and we'll provide support to get you going."



The first individual grant has been awarded to 14 year-old Henry Hudson of Church Street (pictured left), who works two jobs to pay for his Les Paul guitar. He recently performed with his band, The Incidents, at the fundraising gig for the Valley Choice choir, and before that on ukulele with Stan Gilgrist at the Old Time Music Hall. The youth club were impressed that he has already used his musical ability to help raise funds for local good causes. The grant will go towards advanced guitar lessons for Henry to further his playing. It will also enable him to gain a recognised qualification that will not only benefit his own personal development, but also give him an additional qualification to add to his CV when applying for employment, college or university. It will certainly be of great benefit in the progress of his band's aspirations.

So, there's the challenge – got a good idea how to spend some money? Then get in touch with **David Swallow** on **0789 5011122** or email **david.swallow4@virgin.net**.

nab
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
ASSOCIATION
FOR THE BLIND

The Northamptonshire Association for the Blind (NAB) mobile information unit is visiting Corby Town Centre on Friday 10 December, providing information and support to visually impaired people and their carers within the community. The unit will also have a range of gifts on board for the visually impaired including tactile board games, dominos and dice, Braille playing cards, writing guides, talking clocks, watches and kitchen gadgets. The unit will be situated in Queen's Square near TJ Hughes from 10am to 4pm. Contact NAB on **01604 719193**.

NAB are also looking for volunteers who can spare a couple of hours once a fortnight to become a home visitor for blind people in the local area to help, for example, with reading, the occasional shopping trip or visits to the doctors. Full training is offered and expenses paid. This small time commitment can make a huge difference to a visually impaired person's life. Contact **Rachel Cave** on **01604 719193**.

The recent poppy appeal raised £385.73. Thanks to everyone for their support.

Irene Beadsworth of Corby Road, Cottingham would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards, flowers and good wishes she received following her recent stay in hospital. Irene is now firmly on the mend and looking forward to Christmas.

Pat Harrison of Welland View Road would like to wish her family and friends a very happy Christmas and New Year.



Christmas What's On



Church and Carol Services

Tue 14 Dec, 7pm

Methodist Hall - coffee and carols

Wed 15 Dec, 6.30pm

St Mary's - village and Cottingham School carol service

Fri 17 Dec, 2pm

St Mary's - Cottingham School Christingle service



Sun 19 Dec, 3pm

Methodist Church - carol service

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

Midnight Mass at St Leonard's, Rockingham

Christmas Day, 10.30am

Communion service at St Mary's, Cottingham



Sun 2 Jan 2010, 10am

St Marys - Family Praise

Fri 10 Dec, 2pm

Nativity, Cottingham School

Come along to the School for the dress rehearsal of the Nativity, being performed by Key Stage 1 children aged 4 to 7 years. There'll be mince pies and coffee, and all villagers are welcome.

Sat 11 Dec, 8pm

Xmas Dance, Village Hall Annex

Dancing to ballroom, sequence and modern tunes. Tickets are just £4 and you can bring your own refreshments (including alcohol). Call **Audrey Ashworth** on **771084** for more details.

Fri 17 Dec, from 7pm

Carols with Valley Voice

The Valley Voice choir will be touring the village on Friday 17 December singing all your favourite traditional carols. They start at the Manor House old folks' home at 7pm, then onto the Red Lion (7.45pm), the Spread Eagle (8.30pm) and the Royal George (9.15pm). So settle yourself in by the fire at one of our local hosteleries and wait to be entertained!

Christmas Eve, 4pm

Living Crib Journey

Join Mary and Joseph on their journey through Cottingham and Middleton to the stable for the birth of Christ. The journey starts outside St Mary Magdalene Church, finishing at Middleton House Farm where there will be refreshments and a charity collection. The route is suitable for push chairs.

Please wrap up warmly and bring a lantern or torch, and you're welcome to dress as nativity characters. For more information, please contact **Ruth Colby** on **770178**.



Fri 11 Feb, 7.30pm

Opera Dudes, Village Hall Annex

In conjunction with Northants Touring Arts, the Opera Dudes are a comic musical variety act incorporating opera, swing, sketches and impressions - you'll even get to flex your own vocal muscles if you so wish! There will be a pay bar on the night and tickets (price £8) are available from **Irene Beadsworth** on **770059**.



Whist Drives, Village Hall Annex

The first whist drive for 2011 will be on Sat 5 Feb. The drives will then take place every first Saturday of the month through to July, and then from September to December. The cost is £2 per person. Contact **Pam Moore** on **770022**.

Down the pub!

Christmas Eve (Friday)

Christmas menu at the Spread (£19.95) with entertainment from Mr Bip, 2 for 1 Steak Night at the George and normal food menu at The Red Lion.

Christmas Day (Sat 25 Dec)

The Red Lion is serving lunch at 1pm - £49.95 (adults), £34.95 (children), free for under 3s. The George opens for drinks at 11am and the Spread at 11.30am, both serving to 3pm.

Boxing Day (Sun 26 Dec)

Sunday carveries at the Spread (one sitting 12.30pm to 2pm) and the Red Lion (12.30pm to 3pm). In the evening, it's Quiz Night at the Red Lion and the Spread will be serving evening meals with entertainment from Erin Steer. The George will be open all day serving their normal menu.

Monday 27 Dec

Live music at the Red Lion from Shaun EB.

New Year's Eve (Fri 31 Dec)

Music from Bob Oakley at the Red Lion and Samantha Bailey at the Spread, with both pubs serving food. At the George, it's 2 for 1 Steak Night with 'pipes and haggis' at midnight, when the New Year will be heralded in by a real live bagpiper in true Hogmanay style.

New Year's Day (Sat 1 Jan)

All the pubs are open as normal and the Royal George will be serving all day breakfast with a glass of Bloody Mary from 12 noon to 6pm, all for £5.50.

Pub contacts

Royal George	771005
Spread Eagle	772038
Red Lion	771268