



Cottingham and Middleton News

February/March 2007

Available online at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk and www.middletonnews.co.uk



Welcome to the February/March edition of the village newsletter.

On 10 March, Cottingham is playing host to Northamptonshire's very first 'Give or Take Day', a County Council initiative to reduce waste and give us the opportunity to bag a bargain at the same time. Those of you who remember Noel Edmond's 'Swap Shop' will get the idea! We hope you can get along to the event and, while you're there, why not pop next door to the School Hall for the Children's Nearly New Sale being run by the PTFA?

If you have items to donate for either of these events, details are on the back page. Better start clearing out that garage, loft etc...!

And finally, good luck to our roving reporter Graham Ley and Cottingham Parish Clerk Peter Taylor who are both running the London Marathon in April. If you'd like to sponsor them, details are on page 3.

Regards,

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Next Issue
April/May 2007

Issue date:
7 April 2007

Deadline for stories:
30 March 2007

Thanks Eric!

Cottingham Parish Council has presented recently retired Parish Councillor Eric Lawson with a carriage clock in recognition of his 42 years service as a Parish Councillor for the village.

Eric, who has lived in the village for 67 years, was also joined by his wife Lillian and three children Celia, David and Will.



As well as his work on the Parish Council, Eric has also served in the Home Guard and as a school governor and scout master.

The new development on Millfield Avenue will be named 'Lawson Court' to commemorate Eric's outstanding contribution to the village.

Eric is pictured above (centre left) with Cottingham Parish Councillors.

Parish Council Elections: Thursday 3 May



On Thursday 3 May this year, all Parish Councillors on both Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils will be up for re-election. There are nine places on Cottingham PC and seven in Middleton. Full elections happen every four years.

The timetable for nominations and elections is as follows:

Nomination forms available	Tue 27 March
Deadline for nominations	Wed 4 April (12 noon)
Publication of nominees	Tue 10 April

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Elections Office at Corby Borough Council (Grosvenor House) on **01536 464012**. They must be returned to Corby Borough Council by **12 noon on Wednesday 4 April**.

Note that if the number of nominations does not exceed the number of Councillors to be elected, no election will be held and these people will be automatically elected.

The Parish Council elections take place on the same day as the Borough Council elections.

New Kick-Off for Youth Football



Many people have been sorry to see the demise of football in the villages following the closure of Cottingham FC.

Cottingham Parish Council Clerk **Peter Taylor**, himself a keen footballer, is now looking for volunteers to help form a new Cottingham and Middleton youth football team.

If you're a youngster who'd like to join in or a parent who'd like to help out in any way, please give **Peter** a call on **01536 761752**.

Parish Councils

Cottingham

Clerk: Peter Taylor
01536 761752 or 262984
5 Headlands, Desborough
NN14 2QA

Councillors

Phil Dyne (Chairman)
Clive Ashworth (Vice Chairman)
Mrs Pat Buckby
Owen Davison
Geof Hudson
Pam Moore
John Muir
George Sear
Dave Sims

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Annex. Villagers are welcome to attend and share their views.

More information can be found on the Parish Council notice board on the corner of Rockingham Road and School Lane.

Next meetings:

Wed 7 March, 7.30pm
Wed 4 April 7.30pm

Middleton

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

Councillors

Keith Allsop (Chairman)
Dryden Phillipson (Vice Chair)
Raymond Ainge
Gemma Claypole
Alan Cole
David Curtis
Kay Dickens

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except August) starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Annex. Villagers are welcome to attend and share their views.

More information can be found on the Parish Council notice board on Main Street, opposite No.34.

Next meetings:

Wed 21 February, 7.30pm
Wed 21 March, 7.30pm

New Faces on Middleton Parish Council

Two new councillors have been appointed to fill casual vacancies on Middleton Parish Council. Alan Cole (aged 45) of Glover Court has lived in the village for four years and 37 year-old Gemma Claypole moved to Cannam Close three years ago, having previously lived in Cottingham for 10 years. If you'd like to speak to your new Parish Councillors, Alan can be contacted on **770019** and Gemma on **770679**.

Suzanne Goes Rural...



Corby Borough Council has appointed a new Rural Pride Officer, Suzanne Preston, to help improve communications between the Council and the parishes, ensuring that rural communities have a stronger voice.

Suzanne has already started meeting with local groups, residents and organisations to find out about some of the issues affecting the villages. Suzanne can be contacted on **01536 464281** or by email suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk

...and Jane Goes Green!

Jane Campion has joined Northants ACRE as a community development worker focusing on Green Infrastructure projects in the 'River Nene Regional Park', an area stretching from Peterborough to Daventry that includes our villages.



Jane is looking to map existing green infrastructure projects, identify new schemes and establish a network of local people and groups to help get projects up and running. Funding is available for new and existing community projects including allotments, hedgerows, verges, village greens, children's play areas, playing fields, cemeteries, waterways and ponds.

If you're interested in getting involved, contact Jane on **01604 825892** or by email jane.campion@northantsacre.org.uk. More information about the River Nene Regional Park initiative can be found on www.RNRP.org

Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Trust

The charitable trust managing the development of the new meeting hall proposed for Glover Court/Main Street is changing its name from 'Middleton Village Hall Trust (Northants)' to 'Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Trust (Northants)'. The constitution of the trust will be amended to include the parish of Cottingham in its 'area of benefit'.

The change has come about mainly as a result of the overwhelming response from villagers in the draft Cottingham Parish Plan which reveals that 73% of villagers believe we should have one hall to serve both villages. When seen alongside the Middleton Parish Plan, it clearly shows that the people of both villages are thinking as one community on this subject.

The trust will now be taking a fresh look at the hall design and the facilities it could offer, including the best use of the public open spaces surrounding the hall's proposed site in Glover Court/Main Street. They will be consulting extensively with the community and special interest groups over the next few months.

For more information, contact Trust Chairman **Dryden Phillipson** on **770950**, email dryden.phillipson@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk



David, meet David!

When Cottingham Parish Councillor David Sims met David Cameron at a recent event in Corby, he took the opportunity to quiz the Conservative leader about some issues close to our hearts, including the future for rural post offices and village waste collection. Good luck to Dave S who is standing as Conservative candidate for Oakley Vale in the forthcoming Borough elections.



Dib, Dib and Thrice Dib!

By Graham Ley

In this the Scout Movement's 100th Anniversary year, Graham Ley joins the 1st Stoke Albany and Wilbarston Scouts for a night expedition. Did he survive the ordeal? Read Graham's article to find out!

Pale moonlight was washing over the knee-high bracken as I gingerly stepped through the dark field. Every bump and hollow was dipped in deep shadow and could contain the unexpected, so I prodded nervously with my welly boot as I went. Suddenly I jumped three feet as an ear splitting squeal rang through the night air, followed by a giggle as a girl Scout crawled out from under the bracken where I'd trodden on her. She ran back to the muster point eager for the beginning of the next round of the game, while I rejoined the line of searchers combing the field for the remaining hiders.

I suspect a lot of people's image of the Scouts is as outdated as mine was (I was surprised to find almost as many girls as boys) before I took part in this hugely enjoyable night expedition with the 1st Stoke Albany and Wilbarston troop. Group leader Paul Hornbrook is qualified to lead a range of outdoor pursuits and, together with his enthusiastic and friendly team (Julia, Tim and Ian), puts together a fantastic programme of activities and expeditions. I asked the Scouts themselves what they liked best about the group – some said the kayaking and the climbing, others chose the wide games (like the night stalking in the bracken) and hiking. The outdoor pursuits are mixed in with troop meetings in Wilbarston Village Hall, all taking place on Tuesdays from 6.15pm to 7.45pm. The indoor meetings sound fun too – looking at the winter programme I was particularly intrigued by 'The Highland Stag' and 'Killer Ant Challenge'. Along with the fun and games, the Scouts still learn valuable traditional skills such as navigation and First Aid.

Several youngsters from Cottingham and Middleton are members of the 1st Stoke Albany and Wilbarston Scouts and the troop has recently received a donation of £50 from Cottingham Parish Council. The Scouts welcome girls and boys between the ages of 10½ and 15, and the troop also have thriving groups of Cubs (8-10½ yrs) and Beavers (6-8 yrs) who meet on Thursdays and Mondays respectively.



How it used to be! - Cottingham Scout Troop, 1949

Group leader **Paul Hornbrook** would love to hear from any youngsters interested in joining the troop. He'd also like to hear from any grown ups who would like to help out as a leader. Call him on **01536 760939** (evenings) or **01604 883432** (daytime).

Ant Liquorish will be donating all the proceeds from his next quiz to the 1st Stoke Albany and Wilbarston Scouts. See back page for details.

Marathon efforts



Graham Ley will be running the London Marathon for the first time ever on 22 April in aid of ASSERT, the Angelman Syndrome support charity. Angelman Syndrome is a genetic disorder causing severe learning difficulties, of which his niece is a sufferer.

And Graham will be joined at the starting line by Cottingham Parish Council Clerk Peter Taylor, running the marathon for a fifth time, this time with his daughter Michelle, in aid of Cancer Research.

You can sponsor Peter online via www.justgiving.com/thetaylors and Graham's donation site will soon be up and running at www.justgiving.com/GrahamforTixie



Crime Report

We're glad to report that only seven crimes were reported in the villages during December and January. This included three vehicle break ins/theft, and vandalism/theft from outbuildings and caravans in nearby fields.

Bridge Club

If you've ever fancied learning to play Bridge, our very own Bridge expert, **Ann Turner** from Middleton is offering to set up classes to take place at the Village Hall Annex.



The course will last 20 weeks at a cost of £4.50 per lesson, payable in two instalments of £45. For more information, contact Ann on **770271**.

Litter Bins



As you may know, the litter bin on the corner of Rockingham Road and Blind Lane has been in

a rather sorry state since a motor car mounted it in an unexpected Winter 2004 snowfall.

Well, the good news from Corby Borough Council is that the bin will be replaced in the next four weeks. We'll also be getting a few new bins in Cottingham, including a new one by the bus stop outside No.7 High Street.

Branching Out!



If you have any trees in your garden that are in need of a little TLC, two new businesses have started up in Cottingham to give you a helping hand.

Cottingham's new Tree Warden **Jon Dixon** has established a tree surgery business called Treespace Ltd (tel: **772363**, email info@treespace.co.uk).

Cottingham Tree Services, established by Bob Riley, is able to fell trees of up to 15 inch diameter (tel: **771881**, email bob@bluenose.co.uk).

For more information about choosing a tree surgeon, visit the Arboricultural Association's website at www.trees.org.uk

What's On

Fri 23 Feb, 7 to 9.30pm

Bingo Night - School Hall

Eyes down for this first event being held by the newly formed Cottingham School PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) Children welcome.

Tickets cost £2.50 including one free game and children are welcome. Extra games are 25p each and there are masses of prizes on offer. Bring your own drinks. Snacks and children's drinks will be on sale.

Money raised will go to buy extra items for the school including stage lighting and sound equipment. For more information contact **Kirsty Swallow** on **771796**.

Sat 10 March, 2 to 4pm

Nearly New Sale - School Hall

Sale of nearly new children's clothes, toys and equipment being run by Cottingham School PTFA.

Entrance for adults is 50p and all proceeds will go to the school. Children free. Enquiry line for buyers and sellers: **07765 631967**.

Sat 28 April, 7.30 for 8pm

Village Quiz - Village Hall Annex

Village quiz in aid of the Scouts (see pg 3).

Tickets £5 per person including a fish and chip supper. To enter a team, contact **Ant** on **771062**, email **quiz-man@tiscali.co.uk**

Sat 10 March, 10am to 3pm

Give or Take Day Village Hall Annex



Have you got any good quality household and garden items you

don't need any more? If so, why not bring them along to the 'Give or Take Day' being organised by Northants County Council? The idea is that you bring along your unwanted items between 10am and 12 noon then, from 12 to 3pm, villagers can come along and choose up to five items to take away, for an entrance fee of just £1 (children free).

By exchanging our goods, less junk ends up in landfill sites and we could bag some real bargains at the same time!

All proceeds from the day will go to the Jurassic Way project, a community initiative aiming to improve parts of the Jurassic Way, including The Dale.

You can bring along any good quality, reusable household and garden items such as furniture, tools, books, bikes, plants, kitchenware, toys, electrical goods (subject to PAT testing on the day) and bric-a-brac. However, please don't bring clothes or shoes, and items that are damaged or broken can't be accepted due to high disposal costs.

For more information or to offer your help for the event, contact **Rebecca Smith** on **01604 237092**, or email **rsmith@northamptonshire.gov.uk**

Useful Contacts

Northants Police: **08453 700700**

Neighbourhood Watch
David Robins, **01933 304357**
david.robins@northants.police.uk

Corby BC Noise Officer
Paul Craddock, **400088**

Street Doctor (Northants CC)
0845 601 1113

Cllr Robert Rutt
Corby Borough Council
07801 945948

Cllr Stan Heggs
Northants County Council
01536 202918

Northants ACRE
Carolyn Turner, **01604 825889**
carolyn.turner@northantsacre.org.uk

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

Village Hall Annex
Fran and Mick Innes, **770574**
(mobile **07913 552531**)

Methodist Hall
Joan Jarman, **771193**

Clubs and Groups

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

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

WRVS
Judy Evans, **770799**

Mums and Tots
Sandra Battersby, **770184**

Wesley Guild
Cyril Liquorish, **771401**

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

Breast Cancer Support Network
Judy Evans, **770799**

Rockingham Forest Wheelers
Norman Needham, **771356**

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

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

East Carlton Cricket Club
Nick Sumpter, **771203**

Obituary: John O'Leary 21 December 1936 to 1 January 2007

Villagers were saddened to hear of the death on New Year's Day of John O' Leary. John, who lived in School Lane, was familiar to many people in and around Cottingham where he and Nora settled and made many friends. He was also a committed family man to his daughter Nicola, son in law Dan and his two grandsons Jack and James.

Former work colleague Paul Barker said: "John was a true gentleman. He was a respected member of staff at Wellingborough College who always had kind words and advice for his work colleagues as well as his students, which continued until his retirement.

"In later years we would spend many happy hours reminiscing about old times over a pint (or two) in the local hostelry. John will be missed by all those that were touched by him. He will be remembered for his kindness, his understanding, his happiness and joy that he shared with us all."

