



Cottingham and Middleton News

March/April 2010

Available online at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk



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

There's not only a touch of Spring in the air right now, but music too, with the recent launch of Cottingham and Middleton's very own Community Choir! I've been along myself and they're already making a great sound - see Andy Gilgrist's article on page 3 for more information and to find out how you can join in.

It's great to see a new club for pre-schoolers starting up locally, but worrying to see that the currently thriving village Youth Club is in danger of folding if more support isn't received. A few people have put in a lot of work to get the club up and running, and all it needs now is a few hours of your time. Please help out if you can.

There's lots happening in and around the villages over the next few months, as you can see on the back page of this newsletter. A 'What's On' guide is also available on the village website, with dates through to the end of the year. If you are organising an event, please let me know as soon as you have a date so I can get it up onto the website and include it in the newsletter nearer the time.

Regards,

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Crafty Monkeys!

A brand new craft club is starting up locally for pre-school children. 'Crafty Monkeys' is a non-profit-making venture being organised and run by two local mums. Its aim is to allow young children the freedom and opportunity to express their creative ideas in a fun and safe environment. There will be at least six different activities including one main focus for each week and the children will be able to take home everything they make.

The club will meet every Tuesday during term time, from 1.45pm to 2.45pm, at Drayton Village Hall. The cost is £18 for a 6-week term, payable in advance, to include a drink and cake for each child. All children will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

The club launches on **Tuesday 20 April**, with the children making dragons to celebrate St George's Day. During April and May, the children will also be decorating cakes, making clay animals, salt dough magnets, daffodil bunches and blossom lanterns.

To book a place, please contact **Nicola Gumbeer**, Church Street, Cottingham on **770563**, or email her at nicolabond@tinyworld.co.uk.

Youth Club SOS

Following a lot of hard work from the organisers, we now have a very successful youth club in the village for children aged 7 to 12, meeting at the School Hall from 6pm to 8pm every Wednesday.

However, if the club doesn't get more volunteers to help out, it's unfortunately in danger of closing.

So come on mums, dads, grans, granddads, aunts, uncles and anyone who enjoys the company of young people. The more volunteers the club gets, the less time each volunteer will have to give. If you can spare a few hours to help out, please contact Jake (email jakesraj@yahoo.co.uk), David (email david.swallow4@virgin.net) or Irene (email irene@beadsworth.fslife.co.uk or phone **770059**).



Parish Councils - budgets & news

The budgets have now been set for Middleton and Cottingham Parish Councils for the 2010/11 financial year. The precept for Cottingham has increased by 3% this year, from £15,032 to £15,483. This is to account for inflation since 2007/8 when the precept was last increased.

The precept for Middleton has reduced this year to £3,888, as the previous £1,000 a year provision for the new Cottingham and Middleton community hall has not been included for 2010/11.

Middleton Parish Council's solicitor is currently liaising with Corby Borough Council regarding the conditions of the land lease for the new community hall. For the latest information, visit Middleton Parish Council's website at www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk or contact **Dryden Phillipson** on **770950**, email dryden.phillipson@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

Street lights in Middleton have been changed to low energy types and are now all white lights.

Swingler's Path

The pathway between Glover Court and Darescoft has been named 'Swingler's Path' in memory of the Swingler family who ran Middleton Forge on Main Street in the 1800s (pictured below).

A sign will be erected shortly.



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The Northamptonshire Association for the Blind (NAB) mobile information unit is visiting Corby Town Centre on Friday 9 April, providing information and support to visually impaired people and their carers within the community. The unit will be situated in Queen's Square near TJ Hughes from 10am to 4pm.

For cricket fans, NAB are also providing free ball-by-ball commentary on matches at Northamptonshire County Cricket Ground from April to September. Commentary is provided by volunteers through special receivers that can be obtained free of charge at the club shop and carers accompanying a registered blind person can enter the ground free of charge, so it's two for the price of one!

For more information, contact NAB on **01604 716044**.

Parish Council Meetings

Cottingham

Wed 7 April and 5 May

Middleton

Wed 21 April and 19 May

Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Annex. All villagers are welcome to attend.

Rural Police Update



Pictured (left to right): PCSOs Mark Tooley, Nathan Murray and Julie Chester, PC Jonathan Meadwell and Sergeant Julie Mead.

Welcome to our new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) **Mark Tooley** and **Nathan Murray**. Mark, who is our main police contact for Cottingham and Middleton, has been a PCSO for over four years, working with the community on the Kingswood Estate in Corby. Nathan is new to the role and joined the team in September last year.

You may have seen Mark and Nathan out and about in the villages, and a member of the Rural Safer Community Team (SCT) also visits the Village Hall Annex once a month on a Tuesday afternoon. Come along to meet them for a chat or to talk through any issues you may have. Dates are given in the 'What's On' section on the back page of this newsletter and also on the village website www.cottinghamnews.co.uk.

Mark and Nathan replace Phil Beckett and Peter Heywood who are now training to become regular police officers. Other members of the Rural Safer Community Team are PCSO Julie Chester, PC Jonathan Meadwell and Sergeant Julie Mead.

Doorstep crime

The SCT would like to remind villagers to be on their guard against 'doorstep crime', involving unlicensed peddlers selling household goods door-to-door. Unfortunately, these visits sometimes act as a mask for burglaries.

To protect yourself and your home, if a salesman knocks on your door ask to see their ID and their Peddler's Certificate, issued by the local council. If you are in any way suspicious, contact the local Police straight away on their new number **03000 111 222** (or **999** for emergencies) and, if you see a vehicle, take down the registration number.

Dog fouling

Middleton Parish Council has asked the SCT to assist with its campaign to tackle dog fouling in the village, which has again become a problem caused by a small number of offenders.

Fly tipping

There has been a bad spell of fly tipping in Middleton, particularly on the old A427 (Middleton Lane). A group of volunteers has cleared the rubbish for collection by Corby Borough Council and the sites will be under camera surveillance in a few weeks time. Middleton Parish Council Chairman Dryden Phillipson is writing to our MP to press the Home Office for fly tipping to be treated as a reportable and arrestable crime, as currently incidents do not get included in the Parish's crime figures.

Crime Report

There was a spate of burglaries over a single night just before Christmas in Church Street, Cottingham. No crimes have been reported in the villages so far this year.



New Parish Councillors

Welcome to **Alan Davies** (49) of Rockingham Road who has filled the casual vacancy on Cottingham Parish Council. Prior to moving to the village in 2004, Alan was a school governor and an active member of his local Lion's Club. He says: "I am a committed supporter of village life and the need for the communities to protect and develop this, as well as being able to celebrate some more of the achievements of the smaller communities."

Welcome also to **Sarah Brant** who has joined Middleton Parish Council. Sarah moved to Main Street in 2004 and lives with her husband, osteopath Sam Ryall. Sarah says she is committed to ensuring the village receives the services its residents need for the 21st century, but that the positive aspects of village life are not lost in the process.

Let it Be!

By Andy Gilgrist

'Let it Be' – the words of one of The Beatles' most beautiful songs floats in the evening air over Corby Road, sung by the enthusiastic members of Cottingham and Middleton's new community choir.

The words also sum up how the choir came into being. When a merry posse of ladies at the monthly dining (and wining) club Sweets held an impromptu singalong (*What shall we do with the drunken sailor?*), they enjoyed it so much, they wanted to keep on singing!

The result, said key conspirator Kath Vargerson, was a more sober conversation about how it might work and who might direct it musically. The answer to the second question lives in Middleton - Debbie Smith, a music teacher who was delighted to take on the challenge. Let It Be!

The choir currently has around 30 members and rehearsals take place every Tuesday, from 7.30pm to 9pm at the Methodist Hall on Corby Road, Cottingham. Subs are just £1 a week and it's the best value workout you can have for a quid. Singing is not only good, sociable fun, it's also great exercise, good for posture and breathing, and mentally stimulating too.

Adults (aged 16+) of all abilities are welcome to come along – don't worry that you may have missed a few weeks. While women are in the majority, there is a healthy male section (and thanks to vocal range deciding who sits where, all the boys get to huddle together).

Kath, who lives in Middleton, says anyone can join the choir and enjoy singing straight away. She admitted to no previous choral convictions: "We just thought it would be a really good thing for the community to come together to do. And we hope that if we get good enough we might be able to enter competitions or put on shows."

A suggestion was floated that, to bump up the male contingent in the choir, a target of singing during the Welland Valley Beer Festival might be a good one to aim for.

Before that though, there's a lot of practice to do and a lot of enjoyment to be had. And there's one important task, to think of a name for the choir. So, throwing it open to all our readers, phone your best suggestions for a new name to Kath on **771273** or email **Pete Smith** on **psmith1309@supanet.com** – they are also the contacts if you want to find out more about joining the choir. Or just turn up, Tuesdays, 7.30pm.



Debbie Smith is keen to say you don't need to be able to read music or anything fancy like that. "We thought we would just test the waters to begin with," said Debbie, "but the response has been fantastic - phenomenal, really. They're all so enthusiastic and are already making a wonderful sound."

The choir is also on the lookout for a pianist or keyboard player to accompany the singers at rehearsals. You don't need to be Liberace, just be able to tickle the keys a little to give the choir something to sing along to. If you know of anyone who may be able to help out for an hour and a half a week, please contact Kath or Pete as detailed above.



Pizza perfect

The **Spread Eagle** is now offering take-away pizzas. The 12" Chicago Town pizzas cost £6.50 each and you can get two for £12.00, every day up until midnight. To order, call the Spread on **772038** or pop in and order at the bar. You can have a drink while you wait!

Keys found in Dale

A bunch of keys has been found in the Dale. If you know who they may belong to, please contact **Geof Hudson** on **770766**.

Dot says thanks

Dot Ashby of Rockingham Road, Cottingham, would like to express her appreciation to everyone who attended her 90th birthday celebration. Dot says: "It was a wonderful evening and I enjoyed seeing and visiting with everybody. I would also like to thank you for the beautiful cards with kind words and the thoughtful gifts I received."

Planning Update

Ashley Road: At appeal in October 2009, the Government's Planning Inspectorate granted four years' temporary planning permission for the stationing of caravans for three gypsy plots with utility/day rooms (for which detailed plans have now been submitted) on the piece of land off Ashley Road, Middleton.

Little Meadow: In response to a few requests for more information on the Little Meadow court case that took place last year, Cottingham Parish Council has put the detailed document, circulated at the special Public Meeting last March, on its website at **www.cottingham.org.uk/news.html**

What's On

Easter events at St Mary Magdalene

Sat 27 Mar, 7pm

Charity Quiz, Village Hall Annex



Ant Licquorish's first charity quiz for 2010 is in aid of PHAB, the Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied charity. Doors open at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £7 each to include a fish or chicken and chip supper. If you want to bring your own food, the entry fee is £3 per person. You can also bring your own drinks.

If you would like to take part, please let Ant know so he can book your place and order your food if required. Call **Ant** on **771062** or email **quiz-man@tiscali.co.uk**. Or, if you can't attend but wish to donate a raffle prize, please contact Ant as shown.

Fri 2 Apr and Fri 7 May, 7.30pm

Bingo night, Village Hall Annex

Eyes down! Free entrance, 10 games are played and bingo cards cost £10 for six books or £5 for three. All proceeds go into the prize fund on the night.

Sat 3 Apr and Sat 1 May, 7.30pm

Whist drive, Village Hall Annex

Entrance £1.50 with all proceeds to the Village Hall Annex. Contact **Pam Moore** on **770022** for more information.

Tue 13 Apr & 11 May (afternoon)

Meet your CPSO, VHA

If you'd like to meet our Community Police Support Officer, or have anything you'd like to discuss, come along to the Village Hall Annex (VHA). The April meeting will include a talk on avoiding doorstep crime, starting at 2.40pm.

Sat 17 April, 7.30pm

Village Dance, Village Hall Annex

Modern, sequence and ballroom dancing. Bring your own refreshments. Tickets costing £3 each are available from **Audrey Ashworth** on **771084**. All proceeds go the Village Hall Annex.

Sat 17 April, 10am to 2pm

Village Litter Pick

Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils are joining forces to organise a litter pick around the villages on 17 April.

This is part of the CPRE (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) 'Stop the Drop' campaign, which is co-ordinating litter picks around the country during April.

Meet at the school at 10am. For more information, contact Councillor **Geof Hudson** on **770766**, or email **geof.hudson@cottingham.org.uk**.

Sat 24 April, 7pm

Music Night, E Carlton Cricket Club

Come along for a relaxed evening with a vocalist/guitarist. Tickets £5. Contact **Sharon Jantzen** on **771371** for more details.

Fri 30 April, 8pm

Desperate Housewives, VHA

Join the desperate housewives at the Village Hall Annex for a Chinese and a good natter. The cost is £6 each, payable a week in advance. Contact **Jan (772130)**, **Kirsty (771796)**, **Wendy (771177)** or **Sandra (770184)**. Please bring your own drinks, including alcohol.

Fri 7 May, 7.30pm

An evening with Isla

Presented in conjunction with Northants Touring Arts, the ever-popular Isla St Clair will be performing classic and contemporary songs, including folk songs from her native Scotland. Isla has charmed audiences the world over with her relaxed style and she combines her singing performance with fascinating and humorous anecdotes from a lifetime in showbiz.

Tickets cost £8 each, including a light supper, and there is a pay bar. Contact **Irene** on **770059** for tickets and info.



Sun 28 Mar, 10.30am

Palm Sunday procession

Join the Palm Sunday procession from Cottingham church, walking through Cottingham, Middleton and East Carlton Park with Jesus, a donkey/pony and lots of palms, arriving at East Carlton church around 11.50am, where refreshments will be served.

During the procession, you'll hear the story of Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem with prayer, hymns and scripture.

Please feel free to wear Biblical costume and please bring a branch to wave! The route is suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

**Good Friday
2 April, 10am**

Hot Cross Bun service

Cottingham church will be hosting a Hot Cross Bun service for children and families on Good Friday. Share the story of Holy Week with hymns and prayers, and enjoy hot cross buns after the service. Everyone welcome.

**Easter Sunday,
4 April, 10am
Family Praise service**

**Sun 11 April, 6pm
Songs of Praise service**

Come and sing your favourite Easter hymns plus poetry, scripture and prayer. Followed by cheese and wine. Transport can be arranged.

For more information, pick up a leaflet from the church or call **Ruth Colby** on **770178**.