



# Cottingham and Middleton News

## November/December 2008

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



Welcome to the last newsletter for 2008.

There are lots of events

taking place in the villages in the run up to Christmas to help you get in the festive mood.

The popular living crib journey will be taking place again on Christmas Eve and this year will be starting from St Mary Magdalene Church.

Lots of new groups have started up in and around the villages this year, including a thriving new Youth Club, the Cottingham and Middleton Heritage Group, Desperate Housewives and the Welland Reading Group. There is news in this edition too about a new writing group and the East Carlton Garden Society. It just goes to show that the community spirit is alive and well, and long may it continue!

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the people who have sent in stories, supported and helped to distribute the newsletter this year.

And finally, I'd like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2009.

*Jane Smith, Editor*

3 Corby Road, tel: 770821

Email: [jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk](mailto:jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk)

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## Back to School

Over 100 schoolmates from near and far descended on the Village Hall Annex last month for a reunion of former pupils of the old Cottingham School, which used to stand in School Lane, Cottingham.

School pals of all ages included mere youngsters such as Sally Shannon and Alison Sear, who were in the last intake in the 1970s, and Gladys Tufts, Elsie Acaster and Meg Dolby, otherwise known as the Tilley sisters, who first went through the school gates in the 1920s and are all now in their 90s!



The tables were overflowing with photos, schoolbooks and other memorabilia while the air was thick with stories of past schooldays and long lost chums meeting up for the first time in decades.

The reunion, organised by Irene Beadsworth and Pam Moore, also raised a tidy £215 for the local Air Ambulance into the bargain. More photos from the event are available in the 'photo gallery' on the village website at [www.cottinghamnews.co.uk](http://www.cottinghamnews.co.uk)

*Pictured above (left to right:) are former Cottingham School pupils Doreen Cranston (née Coleman), Heather Keys (née Robinson), David Jackson, Sheila Hooton (née Walsh), Irene Beadsworth (née Ansell), Pam Moore (née Wildman) and Sheila Fosbrook (née Spriggs).*

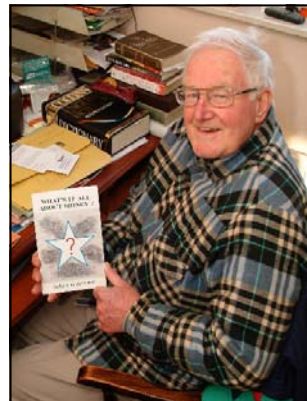
## Travelling Crib

During Advent, St Mary Magdalene Church will again be organising the Travelling Crib. Three sets of crib figures will be travelling around our villages in search of a place to stay, symbolising Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The Travelling Crib will be launched at the Advent carol service at St Peter's, East Carlton at 6pm on 30 November, returning to St Leonard's Church in Rockingham on Christmas morning.

If you would like to offer a home for the crib figures for one night in December, please contact **Rachel Hudson** on **770766**.

This is a great way to spend some time thinking about the true meaning of Christmas in all the hustle and bustle of the festive preparations.



## What's it all about Sidney?!

Former Baptist minister and retired builder **Sidney Beecroft** will be in the Royal George pub on Blind Lane from 8pm onwards on **28 November**, signing copies of his new book **'What's it all about Sidney?'** Sid, formally of Corby, Brigstock and

Geddington, and now living in Cottingham, describes his book as 'an autobiography with attitude'.

Says Sid: "Woven around the events in my life and known fact about the life of the universe, the book is an argument for the authenticity of Christian faith. It interprets personal experiences in a way that has general significance, addressing metaphysical questions that every thinking person can contemplate and putting the case for the argument that faith can illuminate the meaning of life."

If you can't get along to the book signing, copies of the book at £9.95 each can be obtained from Sid by emailing him at [whatsitalaboutsidney@btinternet.com](mailto:whatsitalaboutsidney@btinternet.com)



## Obituaries

**Andrew 'Jeff'  
Jefferson  
1951-2008**

Andrew 'Jeff' Jefferson was born in Rockingham and lived in Ripley Road, Cottingham for 22 years after he moved to the village in 1984.

His wife, Susan and children Zoe and Mark would like to thank friends and neighbours for all the cards, flowers and offers of support since Jeff's death on 4 October.

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### Tina Guy

Tina Guy sadly died on 3 November after a long illness. She taught at Cottingham School several years ago and was popular with both staff and pupils alike. She was also a very talented artist and held exhibitions of her paintings at various venues. She leaves her husband Frank and daughters Lara and Kayleigh.

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### Elsie (Grace) Thomas

Elsie, who lived in Cottingham for many years, died on 20 November after a long illness. She was a very close friend of the late Mary Bidwell and they worked together for many years.

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## Parish Council Meetings

### Cottingham

Wed 3 Dec 2008, 7.30pm  
Wed 7 Jan 2009 7.30pm

### Middleton

Wed 17 Dec 2008, 7.30pm  
Wed 21 Jan 2009 7.30pm



## Rural Police Update

*From Acting Sergeant Julie Mead, Corby Rural SCT*

Our mobile police station paid a visit to Cottingham and Middleton on 25 November as part of our 'week of action', a joint approach to crime prevention by police, council and partner agencies. The week ends on **Saturday 29 November** with **'The Safety Claus'**, a fun event taking place at Weldon Village Hall from 11am to 4pm. Santa will be paying a visit and there will be free gifts, a bucking bronco, bouncy castle, a hog roast, crime prevention advice and many other activities. We hope you can join us on the day.

Following the last Rural Area Forum in October, we have adjusted our priorities to focus on speeding, parking and motorcycle nuisance over the next three months. Some of you will have seen the team at the village school and out with the speed gun. The same problem has continued despite the efforts of our young people at the end of last term to prevent parking. Some parents are still parking illegally around the school and as a result have received parking fines. I pass the school every day when off duty and am sad to say that some parents are just ignoring the warnings if an officer isn't present. One parent I passed while off duty stopped outside the school to let me to pull out of the junction, while she was talking on her mobile phone and driving! Please, please consider your children's safety.

We are receiving very positive feedback from our 'Street a Week' visits, where our rural police team is knocking on doors for a chat, to ask what problems there are in your area and find out what we can do to improve your quality of life. We then collate the results and target the issues. So far, our team has visited Corby Road and Church Street in Cottingham and, in Middleton, Glover Court and part of Main Street. Please take the opportunity to speak to the team if they knock at your door.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

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### Home Protection Advice

The sad news of a house burglary in Middleton in the past few weeks is a stark reminder to us all of the need to secure our homes against unwanted visitors, especially at this time of year.

As well as reviewing your home security, you should always be on your guard if a stranger knocks on your door.

Here are a few tips to protect yourself and your home:

- To sell door-to-door, salesmen must obtain a Peddler's Certificate from the local council. Ask to see this, and the person's ID.
- Record the person's details if possible and, if a vehicle is seen, take down the registration number.
- If you are suspicious or unsure if the caller is genuine, contact the local Police to inform them.

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### A load of rubbish!



Middleton Parish councillors Jan Robertson, Kay Dickens and Yvonne Alvey and their respective other halves spent three

hours in October collecting 30 bags of rubbish from the verge and hedgerows on Middleton Lane (the old A427 across the top of the Dale).

Many thanks to Justina Medwell and Noel Henson for collecting some of the rubbish bags and to Corby Borough Council for providing refuse sacks, gloves and picking rods, and for collecting the remaining bags.

*Pictured at the litter pick are Jan Robertson (right) and Justina Medwell.*

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### WRVS Update

WRVS members and friends enjoyed a lovely trip to the Wicksteed Park Christmas show on Sunday 23 October. Members are now looking forward to their Christmas meal at the Hunting Lodge on 4 December.

And a quick reminder! If you know of any villagers who have been ill or in hospital, please let **Sue Jefferson** or any WRVS member know so they can send flowers. Sue can be contacted on **771822**.

## The kids are all right!

By Graham Ley

You could power the whole of Cottingham and Middleton from the energy buzzing around the school hall from 6pm to 8pm on Wednesday evenings these days. If you're lucky enough to be aged between 7 and 12 years and bring along the modest sum of 50p, you can launch yourself into a whole bunch of fun activities at the Youth Club. Some of the regular hits are Wii games (mostly sports, but apparently even the boys secretly enjoy the High School Musical sing-along), table tennis, dodgeball, volleyball and Craft Corner. With 60 kids on average turning up, the place rocks. The organisers make sure that everyone who wants to gets a turn, but for those who prefer to just hang out enjoying the lively atmosphere and chatting to their friends, that's OK too. There's even a tuck shop, and a free snack and a drink is included in the entrance fee.

Other activities are introduced on a rolling basis, depending on what the leaders and the volunteer parents feel able to supervise. The Club now has over 20 CRB-cleared volunteers on the rota (although more are always welcome). It's great also to see some older teenagers helping out and getting useful experience in leading youth activities along the way. In addition to the Wednesday mayhem, there have been successful outings organised to Corby Adrenaline Alley for a closed skateboarding session and the Frontier Centre in Wellingborough for abseiling and archery. Plans for a Christmas disco are also bubbling away.

The club management committee of David Swallow, Jake Raj and Nicola Tyldesley has been startled and delighted at how popular the Club has been since it launched in September. Nearly all the kids either live in the two villages or attend Cottingham School, which has given fantastic support to the Club by providing the hall free of charge. The committee are excited at the thought of taking the Club to the next stage by offering the kids the chance to learn new skills – anything from digital photography to sports technique. It all depends on having competent and willing volunteers, of course. So if you feel you have something to offer, or just want to add your name to the general volunteer list, please contact David Swallow on [david.swallow4@virgin.net](mailto:david.swallow4@virgin.net) or telephone **771796**.



## Happy Birthday Hilda! Open House, 26 December



**Hilda Bradshaw** is celebrating her 90th birthday on **Friday 26 December** and you are invited

to an 'open house' at 5 Blind Lane, Cottingham from 11am to 5pm to celebrate this special occasion.

If you are around and have time to drop in to wish Hilda a happy birthday and enjoy some seasonal refreshments, the Bradshaws would love to see you. Contact **Colin and Dianne** on **770029**.

## Mike Springthorpe

Did you attend the local youth club when it was run by Mike and Kay Springthorpe? Unfortunately, Mike has had a very serious accident whilst cycling in Spain, where the couple are currently living, and is now in the critical care unit at Leicester Royal Infirmary awaiting transfer to a spinal injuries unit.

Mike and Kay are still members of the Rockingham Forest Wheelers. If you would like to pass on your regards, Mary and Norman Needham are visiting Mike regularly and you can contact **Mary and Norman** on **771356**.

## Calling all Gardeners



Your local garden society meets at Great Easton Village Hall at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month. New members and visitors are always welcome. During the year the group has a variety of interesting speakers and visits to some wonderful gardens (Highgrove last month).

The next meeting is the AGM on 21 January 2009, including a silent auction and supper. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own drink and glassed if you wish.

For more information, contact **Ro Freeman** on **770283** or email her at [tonyfreeman48@aol.com](mailto:tonyfreeman48@aol.com).



## The Write Staff...

If you've ever fancied turning your hand to a bit of creative writing, Cottingham's **Rita Haas** is looking for fellow aspiring writers who'd like to meet up, read out and discuss their own work at a regular group that will meet every other Tuesday from 10am to 12 noon. If you've got a story, an article or a poem just waiting to get onto paper, give **Rita** a call on **772338** and she'll tell you more about the group.

## Christmas Boxes

St Mary Magdalene Church and Cottingham School have got together more than 50 Christmas boxes for needy children in some of the world's poorest countries, as part of the Samaritan's 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal.

Thanks to everyone involved for their support and generosity.



## Happy Chicken Eggs



**Bob Riley and Julie Grant** now have six happy chickens in their garden living the

life of Riley! If you'd like some truly free range eggs, **Bob and Julie** are selling them for £1.20 a half dozen and, if there's enough demand creating a shortage, will make a weekly collection from Ashley Farm, whose chickens also live a fantastic life. Contact **Bob and Julie** on **771881**.



# Christmas What's On

## PTFA Christmas Fayre

Fri 28 Nov, 6.30 to 8.30pm

Over 30 stalls will fill the School Hall and Village Hall Annex for the Cottingham School PTFA Christmas Fayre, offering crafts and gifts to suit all pockets, along with carols from the school choir, seasonal cookery demonstrations by Pampered Chef, beers from Langton Brewery and seasonal refreshments.

Entry is £2 for adults, including a glass of mulled wine and a raffle ticket which will give you the chance to win a £70 Christmas turkey delivered to your door. There is no charge for children.

## Christmas Bazaar

Methodist Hall,  
Sat 29 Nov, 2pm



Come along to the Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar to snap up some goodies well in time for Christmas. Entrance is free. For more details, contact **Joan Jarman** on **771193**.

## Christmas Crib Festival

St Mary Magdalene, Sat 13/Sun 14 Dec



St Mary Magdalene is holding a Crib Festival in the Church for the first time this year. Bring along a crib, or any interpretation of the nativity you have made, in any medium, for display over the weekend - children are invited to

make an 'edible crib' - or just visit the Church to see all the cribs that have been created.

There will be refreshments and a cake stall available throughout the weekend with light lunches of soup and a roll on Saturday. There will be lots of activities based on the crib theme, a Christmas quiz for adults and you can even have your picture taken, individually or as a family, dressed in nativity costumes in our specially prepared stable, courtesy of David Swallow.

If you would like to enter a crib for the festival please contact **Ann (771343)** or **Kathryn (770159)**. For further information about the weekend, or if you can spare an hour to help, please contact **Ruth (770178)** or **Mary (771339)**.

## Royal George, New Year's Eve

Come along to the Royal George on New Year's Eve dressed as your favourite celebrity couple. Or, if you don't fancy dressing up, you can still enjoy the disco in the restaurant area with food available outside, under cover.

## Church and Carol Services

Sunday 14 December, 6pm

**St Mary Magdalene:** Traditional 'carols by candlelight' service to round off the Christmas Crib Festival, with mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

Thursday 18 December, 7pm

**Methodist Hall:** Coffee and carols.

Sunday 21 December, 3.30pm

**Methodist Church:** Carol Service with Margaret Eales.

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

Midnight service at St Mary Magdalene, Cottingham.

Christmas Day, 10.30am

Family communion service at St Leonard's, Rockingham.



## Christmas Sing-along



The Obelisk, Glover Court  
Sun 21 Dec, 6.30pm

Cottingham and Middleton villagers are invited to come along to 'The Obelisk' in Glover Court for a Christmas sing-along, backed by local musicians. Song sheets will be provided. Please bring a torch and some sleigh bells if you have them. There'll also be mince pies and mulled wine, so come along for some Christmas cheer at this fun and enjoyable event.

For more information, contact **Rob Cross** on **07702 932895**, email **rob.cross@dfob.co.uk**.



## Living Crib Journey

Christmas Eve, 4pm



Join Mary and Joseph on their journey through Cottingham and Middleton to the stable for the birth of Christ, with carols, prayers and inn visits on the way. The journey starts outside St Mary Magdalene Church, finishing at Middleton House Farm where there will be refreshments and a collection for 'Toybox', a charity working with street children in South America.

Please wrap up warmly and bring a lantern or torch, and you're welcome to dress as nativity characters - especially shepherds and angels.

For more information, or if you'd like to take a more active role in the journey, help with the refreshments or contribute to the music, please contact **Ruth Colby** on **770178**.