



Cottingham and Middleton News

October/November 2006

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



Welcome to the October/November edition of the village newsletter.

Middleton's Parish Plan and the draft Parish Plan for Cottingham have both identified speeding traffic as a major concern amongst villagers, so we're pleased in this issue to bring you an update on road safety measures and plans for the villages.

Middleton Parish Council's new website is now online at www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk. This is a great step forward as it will enable the Parish Council to provide villagers with up-to-date news and also cut down on paperwork.

Finally, it was great to see so many people turning out to vote in the recent Cottingham Parish Council election - in the pouring rain too! Just goes to show that the spirit of democracy is alive and well!

Regards,

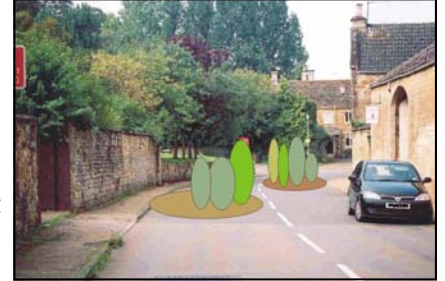
Jane Smith, Editor
3 Corby Road, tel: 770821
Email: jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk

Village Road Safety

Middleton Parish Council has formed a working party to investigate the feasibility of chicane type traffic calming measures in two locations on Main Street. These are near the bus shelter opposite Middleton House Farm (*top picture*) and near the post box and village seat (*bottom picture*).

This proposal will need approval from Northants County Council and there is no guarantee that funds will be available from this source. The working party is therefore also exploring other funding possibilities.

The artist's impressions opposite give you an idea of what the chicanes will look like, but they're subject to technical approval and are not to scale. More information is available on the new Middleton Parish Council website at www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk



Cottingham: Community Speedwatch volunteers were out on the village's roads towards the end of August tracking the speed of vehicles on Corby Road and Rockingham Road.



Over 14 sessions, the hand held speed guns clocked 89 vehicles breaking the 30mph limit, the fastest of which was travelling at 54 mph.

Northamptonshire Police has sent the owners of these cars a letter drawing their attention to the inappropriate use of speed on the village's roads. Thanks to all the volunteers who operated the guns.

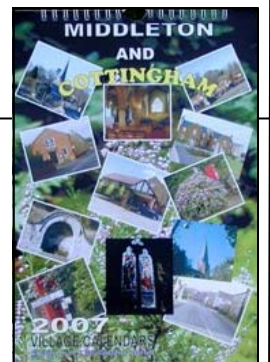
Cottingham Parish Council is also in discussions with the local Highways Authority regarding the feasibility of introducing traffic calming and safety measures for Cottingham. Possibilities include rumble strips on Corby Road at the entrance to the village, flashing speed warning signs, a 'no through road' sign for Church Street and extension of the Rockingham Road footpath at the bottom of the hill. For more information, contact Parish Clerk **Peter Taylor** on **01536 761752**.



Dog Show Takes a Bow-Wow!

The village dog show held in September attracted 46 four-legged entries and raised more than £250 to help an African community become self sufficient.

Organisers Donna Winch and Rachel Hudson would like to thank everyone who came along, took part and supported the event, including Parish Councillor Owen Davison who acted as official photographer for the day! Owen's picture on the left shows eight year-old Callum Farr of Glover Court with Irish Setter Misty, runner-up for the cutest pup.



Next Issue
Dec 06/Jan 07

Issue date:
9 December 2006

Deadline for stories:
1 December 2006

2007 Village Calendars

2007 Middleton and Cottingham village calendars have been produced by Middleton's Cramphorn Colour Printers. The calendars are now on sale for £5 each and all profits will go to St Mary Magdalene Church. If you'd like a copy, contact **Mary Freestone (771339)**, **Ann Sturman (771343)** or **Sue Beadsworth (771420)**.

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 1 November, 7.30pm
Wed 6 December 7.30pm

Middleton

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

Councillors

Keith Allsop (Chairman)
Dryden Phillipson (Vice Chair)
Raymond Ainge
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 15 November, 7.30pm
Wed 20 December, 7.30pm

Geof Joins Parish Council



Geof Hudson of Church Street has been elected to Cottingham Parish Council following an election in which a fantastic 148 villagers - more than a third of village adults - turned out to vote.

Said Geof: "I am delighted to be appointed to the Parish Council and would like to thank everybody who turned out to vote in August. I love this village and I'm keen to ensure it never loses its rural character. I'm looking forward to working with the other Councillors to make sure that any changes are for the good of the village and its villagers, and that your views are represented." If you'd like to contact **Geof**, call **770766**.

Middleton Village Hall

The Middleton Village Hall Trust is still awaiting payment of the Section 106 monies from the Glover Court development to help fund the project. Middleton Parish Councillors have raised this ongoing issue with Corby Borough Council Deputy Leader Cllr Robert Scott who has agreed to take the matter back for further discussion with the Borough Council.

Meanwhile, we're pleased to report that Cottingham Parish Councillors George Sear and David Sims have accepted an invitation to sit on the board of trustees for the Middleton Village Hall Trust to represent the interests of Cottingham villagers in relation to the project.

New Footpath Opens

A new pedestrian footpath has opened in Middleton linking Glover Court and Lightfoot Lane. Created as part of the new housing development on what was Walter Campbell's land, the footpath has joined up both ends of Middleton so it's no longer necessary to walk all the way round Main Street.

Judging by the number of kids, families and dog walkers now making use of this shortcut, we reckon it's going to prove very popular!

The
Street
Doctor



Just a reminder. If you need to report a blocked road drain, pot hole or damaged pavement in the villages, contact 'The Street Doctor' at Northants County Council on **0845 601 1113**.

A Fresh Start!

A full-service graphic design company, Soap Design, has been set up in Middleton offering a professional design and print service for medium and large businesses. Soap Design is run by Jaime Aldaya who is Cottingham and Middleton born and bred, and business partner Carl Stasiak, who Jaime met whilst studying at the CTC in Corby.



The business operates from a restored hay loft just behind 11 Main Street. "Soap Design is our first real business venture and promises to be a great success," says Jaime. "We're really proud of our new offices so if anyone would like to pop in we'll happily show them round."

For more information, visit www.soap-design.co.uk or contact **Jaime** or **Carl** on **01536 770270**.



And Jaime and Carl's new venture carries on a tradition of businesses operating from 11 Main Street. The building was used as a shop and bakehouse from 1947 to 1978 and is now Willow Cottage B&B!

Top pic: Soap Design's Jaime Aldaya (right) and Carl Stasiak. Bottom pic: 11 Main Street in the late 1940s/50s with shopkeeper Mr Jordan.



Graham Ley (left) with Mark and Karen Shirley

Scrumptious Scrumpy!

By Graham Ley

A roving reporter is up for any assignment, but in truth some are met with more enthusiasm than others. And the invitation to watch Middleton's Mark Shirley make the first 2006 apple pressing for his home made cider, with the prospect of sampling last year's vintage, fell firmly into the "Oh, yes please!" camp.

Mark and wife Karen moved to Middleton in

July last year, Mark bringing with him a love of real cider and 10 years' experience in making his own. When we visited, Mark was equipped for action in apron and rubber gloves (the juice oxidises instantly, staining everything brown if you're not careful), conducting an early test pressing of apples from an unidentified tree near Croft. The apples are washed and then milled through a stainless steel shredder. Mark then builds up a stack of cheeses (cloth packages), clamps on the top of the hand press and ratchets it down. The Croft apple turned out to be rather unjuicy, but even so there was something riveting about the golden liquid cascading down into the bucket.

Mark simply adds a little yeast to help fermentation start, and waits - nothing else is added. Depending on how cold the winter is, the cider is ready in May/June.

And what does it taste like? The first thing you get is the glorious apple-soaked alcoholic scent. A mouthful, and after the welcome absence of fizz and sugar associated with most mass-produced ciders you're into that smooth, dry apply scrumpy experience. It's very more-ish.

Mark's Rockingham Forest Cider was a hit at this year's Welland Valley Beer Festival and no doubt will be again in 2007. The Criterion Free House in Millstone Lane, Leicester, and the Hatton Arms in Gretton have been serving it but alas by the time you read this, the 2005 vintage will almost certainly have been drunk dry. If you'd like to learn more or contact Mark, visit his website at <http://rockinghamforestcider.moonfruit.com>



Crime Report and Neighbourhood Watch

There has been a marked increase in crime in the villages over the past couple of months with 16 incidents having been reported, mostly break-ins and theft of and from cars and motorcycles. There have also been three incidents of vandalism/break-in to houses and, a few weeks ago, in the early hours of Sunday morning, the Police were called to a disturbance that culminated in a gang of youths smashing the glass in the Rockingham Road phone box.

A spokesman for Northants Police said: "The recent increase in crimes in Cottingham, mainly thefts and criminal damage, is disappointing but it should be noted that the actual number of crimes taking place is still a very low number compared to other areas of the county. Local officers will be working hard to ensure these problems are addressed."

The Police have also offered the following advice in respect of car crime:

- If possible, park in a well-lit area that is not too remote
- When not in the car, remove any valuables completely (don't put them in the boot or glove box)
- Always lock your car securely and ensure all windows are fully closed
- Never leave the keys in the ignition, even if you are only leaving the car for a few moments.

There are currently Neighbourhood Watch schemes up and running in Rockingham Road, Stonepit Drive and Welland View Road (Cottingham), and in Ashley Road and The Hill (Middleton). If you're interested in setting up a scheme for your road or street, contact **David Robins** on **01933 304357**, or email david.robins@northants.police.uk



A black cat has unfortunately been found dead on the road in Main Street. Pat Aldaya at No.11 is looking after the body hopeful that the owner can be found. Please contact **Pat** on **771223**.

Millfield development:

Concerns have been raised about damage to the stone walls on Corby Road and Millfield Avenue surrounding the new development. Borough Cllr Bob Rutt and County Cllr Stan Heggs are both working to ensure the walls are immediately made safe. They will be properly repaired upon completion of the development.

Conservation repairs: Chris Owen of Church Street is spearheading a project to secure a Landfill Tax grant to repair the Church steps and railings, and to repair the stone walls and clear the top path between The Dale and Camsdale Walk. The work would be carried out by BTCV (British Trust Conservation Volunteers). Contact **Chris** on **771127**.

Little Meadow: The Government's Planning Inspectorate advise that they are still waiting for a site visit to be made to Little Meadow before deciding the appeals against the refusal of planning permission for a mobile home and the enforcement notice to return the land to pasture. Given this, no decision is likely for at least a couple of months.

Cllr Clive Ashworth would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and messages of support during his recent spell in hospital.

Rosa Lenton's family would like to thank everyone who sent donations following Rosa's death in July. Donations received totalled £137.50 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and £147.50 for the British Heart Foundation.

Organic Growth: Bob Riley and Julie Grant have extended the range of produce on offer through the Organic Box Scheme to include a wide range of foods, such as biscuits, milk and apple juice from River Nene Organics, as well as fruit, vegetables, meat and eggs from Woodlands Farm. Bob and Julie will receive the boxes on a Thursday on behalf of villagers to await collection or deliver them when convenient. Contact **Bob and Julie** on **771881** or visit www.wood-turnaround.org.uk

What's On

Sun 12 November, 11am

Remembrance Day Service

A remembrance service is being held at the war memorial outside the school to honour the men and women who gave their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts.

This will be followed by soup and rolls at the Methodist Hall on Corby Road. Everyone is welcome to come along.



Poppy Appeal Collectors Needed

Are you able to spare an hour or two to help out with the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in aid of the welfare and benevolent work for Service men and women?

Particular help is needed to cover Bancroft Road, Ripley Road, Stonepit Drive, Welland View and Windmill Avenue.

If you can spare the time for such a valuable and important cause, call **Mrs Joan Jackson** on **771328**.

Sat 4 November, 7.30pm

Whist Drive - Village Hall Annex

Cost £1 per person. All are welcome. Contact **Pam Moore** on **770022**.

Sun 19 November

Wicksteed Park Party

There are still places left for the coach trip to the party at Wicksteed Park being organised by the WRVS. The day out includes entertainment from the Wurlitzer organ from Turner's Musical Merry-Go-Round of Northampton, along with lunch and afternoon tea.

Tickets are just £20. To book your ticket and place your £5 deposit, ring **Judy Evans** on **770799**.

Sat 25 Nov, 2-4pm

Christmas Bazaar - Methodist Hall

Come along and get your Christmas goodies at the Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar.

For more details, contact **Joan Jarman** on **771193**.



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**

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

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

Spread Eagle Pool Team
George Barker, **07904 954040**

Ant's Question Time Rocks the Boat!



Ant Licquorish's recent quiz night, held on 30 September, saw 13 teams competing, raising £261 for the RNLI. The donation was gratefully received by the RNLI's Ian Hunter who came along to lend his support and provide an overview of the charity's work.

Congratulations go to the winning team 'Two pints of lager and a packet of crisps purlease', who scored a fantastic 271 out of a maximum 300 points, followed by 'The village idiots' with a creditable 262 points. The appropriately named 'Sunk!' brought up the stern with a score of 182 and as a result won the booby prize.

Ant would like to thank everyone who made the event run smoothly: Alastair Ambrose for doing a sterling job with the marking; Beryl Booth for running the raffle; John Hulatt for collecting answer sheets; Don and Pam for collecting the half-time fish and chips; Pat for assisting with the setting up and to everyone else who attended and donated raffle prizes. Special thanks to Vicky and Helix Lighting of Wellingborough who supplied a plethora of lamps that were sold at the end of the quiz to further boost the coffers.

Ant's next charity quiz is scheduled for the end of April next year so watch this space for details. And, in October next year, Ant will be celebrating 15 years of quiz organising with an Anniversary Quiz in aid of the Princess Diana Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

