



# Cottingham and Middleton News

September/October 2009

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

I'm sure I'm not alone in having missed the sound of the referee's whistle and the cheer of spectators coming from the Recreation Ground at weekends so I'm delighted in this issue to bring you news of the imminent return of football to the village, including a new Cottingham FC team.

I'm also delighted to report on page 2 of **Mark Jefferson's** success in the National Apprentice Awards. We've been tracking Mark's progress through the local and regional awards in previous issues of the newsletter and winning this national award really is a fantastic achievement. Well done Mark!

And finally, I'd like to welcome on board **Andy Gilgrist** as the new roving reporter for Cottingham and Middleton News while Graham Ley is away in Helsinki. You can read Andy's first article on Cottingham's tree warden Jon Dixon on page 3 - let's hope it's the first of many!

*Regards,*

*Jane Smith, Editor*  
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**Nov/Dec 2009**

## Football's coming home!

Cottingham will soon see the return of football to the playing fields. Over the summer, Cottingham Parish Council has been working with several individual groups, all of which have approached them with the idea of setting up local teams and training sessions. These groups have now joined forces to establish a working party which will see the fields maintained to a playable standard.

Cottingham Parish Councillor David Swallow says: "We are delighted that four separate groups have approached us completely independently, offering to help bring the playing fields back into use as sports pitches. These groups cover the full age range from six years to adult, male and female, and between them offer the chance for residents to access coaching courses, Saturday league matches and Sunday league games.

"The first thing we need to do is bring the pitches up to a safe standard as they have not been used very much since the previous football club ended and the moles have taken up residence. After that, we will mark out pitches, apply for grants to change the goal posts and put in some nets. That will be our focus for this season.

"The Parish Council and VHMC (Village Hall Management Committee) have been fantastic. They are letting us use the playing fields for free and share our vision of developing the necessary facilities on the playing fields to enable us to participate in leagues. To make this a reality we will need the support of villagers. Firstly, we are looking for architects, builders, and engineers who can donate some of their time to help us do a feasibility study and draw up some plans. Secondly, we need funds and will be holding fundraising events throughout the season."

If you are able to help or would like to find out more, please contact **David Swallow** on **771796** or email him at [david.swallow4@virgin.net](mailto:david.swallow4@virgin.net).

## New Cottingham FC

One of the teams working with the Parish Council to get football back on the playing fields is New Cottingham FC. Most of the team live in, or originate from, Cottingham and the lads are helping to revive a tradition of football in the village that stretches back at least 100 years. They are playing in the original Cottingham FC colours of yellow and green and are being generously sponsored by The Royal George.

The team is playing in Division 1 of the Kettering Area Sunday League with home games currently taking place at West Glebe Park in Corby. In their first match, which took place on 6 September, the team unfortunately suffered an 8-1 defeat at the hands of Corby Forest, having held off for 33 minutes before conceding the first goal. The goalscorer for Cottingham FC was Matthew Sheen, the first official goal for the club.

For more information, contact club secretary and treasurer **Neil Jarman**, Berryfield Road, on **07708 323077**. The team is managed by **Adam Muir**, also of Berryfield Road.



*New Cottingham FC's Neil Jarman (left) and Adam Muir*



*The original Cottingham FC, circa 1948*

# Parish Councils

## Cottingham

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

### Councillors

Clive Ashworth (Chairman)  
Pete Bowman (Vice Chair)  
Irene Beadsworth  
Owen Davison  
Geof Hudson  
Pam Moore  
John Muir  
David Swallow

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 Oct, 7.30pm  
Wed 4 Nov, 7.30pm

## Middleton

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

### Councillors

Dryden Phillipson (Chairman)  
Kay Dickens (Vice Chair)  
Raymond Ainge  
Yvonne Alvey  
Gemma Claypole  
Alan Cole

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 Oct, 7.30pm  
Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm

## Mark wins National Apprentice of the Year

**Mark Jefferson** of Ripley Road, Cottingham, has won the national Young Apprentice of the Year award for 2009, following on from his success in the East Midlands Apprenticeship Awards.



Mark, who has just turned 16, completed a Young Apprenticeship in Vehicle Maintenance and Repair at Rockingham Motors in Corby, following in his late father's footsteps by choosing to make a career out of his passion for car maintenance. He has since been taken on as a full apprentice.

"Being treated as an adult by my colleagues has shown me what working life is all about," says Mark. "Although daunting at first, having that sense of responsibility has greatly increased my confidence. The biggest lesson I have learnt is that I am capable of achieving almost anything that I set my mind to. It just shows what can happen when you put a lot of work into something you enjoy doing."

Mark added: "I strive for excellence for my Dad. Looking back, I see my apprenticeship as not only giving me practical experience in the industry, but it has also allowed me to grow as a person."

The awards were presented by England rugby international Matt Dawson at a prestigious London ceremony. Mark is pictured above holding his award with Matt, his 'Strictly Come Dancing' partner Lilia Kopylova and Children's Minister Iain Wright.

## Crime Report



Seven crimes have been reported in the villages over the last few months (5 June to 8 September).

Most of these crimes took place in August and involved theft from or criminal damage to vehicles.

## Middleton Neighbourhood Watch

Middleton Parish Council will be promoting Neighbourhood Watch in the coming weeks and have a limited number of Smartwater security packs available free of charge (normally cost £50) for Middleton residents. These will be issued at 7pm on Wednesday 21 October, just before the next Middleton Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall Annex. For more information, contact **Dryden Phillipson on 770950**.

## Crackdown on Pavement Parking

Following a request from our local PCSOs, Middleton Parish Council will be addressing the problem of vehicles parking on pavements causing obstruction to pedestrians and damaging kerbs.

## Parish Council vacancies

There is currently a casual vacancy to be filled on both Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils, following the resignation of Phill Dyne and Janet Robertson respectively.

Three people have already put themselves forward to fill the Cottingham vacancy and further nominations will be accepted up until 13 November. For more information, please contact Parish Clerk **Peter Taylor on 761752**.

If you're interested in joining Middleton Parish Council, please contact Chairman **Dryden Phillipson on 770950**.

## Planning Appeal - Ashley Road

A three-day public enquiry took place at Corby Borough Council's offices from 8 to 10 September. This was for the Government's Planning Inspectorate to consider the appeal against the Borough Council's refusal of planning permission for the stationing of caravans for three gypsy plots with utility/day rooms on a piece of land off Ashley Road.

The Planning Inspector has not yet made a decision regarding the appeal, but you can keep up to date with the latest information on [www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk](http://www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk).



# Tree's Company!

By Andy Gilgrist

"If in two hundred years our great grandchildren's great grandchildren can stand under this tree, look up and be amazed and awestruck by it, then that's quite a legacy we'll have left." So says Jon Dixon, Cottingham's Tree Warden, as we pause under a semi-mature Sycamore halfway along the Dale.



*Cottingham's Tree Warden, Jon Dixon*

The voluntary and unpaid role advising Cottingham Parish Council and others on how best to preserve, maintain, reduce and, ultimately, fell and replace our trees has been Jon's for the past three years.

If the Dale is Cottingham and Middleton's very own nature reserve with an ever changing ecological ebb and flow of life and renewal, then the trees which stand sentinel over it are the longest-standing embodiment of that natural process.

The trees preserve the very shape of the land by preventing erosion, and provide habitats for all manner of creatures, from invertebrates in rotting timber to the woodpeckers whose holes high up in a giant Lime tree Jon points out.

Walking through the Dale with Jon involves a fair bit of looking up. For Jon, the view is often reversed. When reducing a diseased Beech at the top of the Dale by the road, he said the view from the (now reduced by 60 feet) top was incredible. "When you are at the bottom of the Dale with all the mature trees towering above, that is quite a place to be. Being right at the top of a tree like that Beech and looking at everything, including the other trees, below – there's no better place to be."

Many of the tasks which Jon recommends to the Parish Council are driven by the desire not only to keep the Dale as a special place to visit, but also a safe one. "Trees are living things and consequently unpredictable." Felling may be the answer if, for instance, a diseased tree is near a footpath or road.

But, wherever possible, mature trees are reduced rather than removed. Reduction is less traumatic for the ecology in and around the tree. The Beech mentioned earlier could have been felled, but it had heritage on its side – literally, in the shape of historic carvings on its trunk. Reduced by 60 feet in height, the Beech may stand for another hundred years as a monolithic home to many creatures.

About 90 trees have been surveyed by Jon in the Dale and elsewhere on Parish Council land, and work has taken place on more than 20 so far. A next stage is to plant new native broadleaved trees. Walk to the far end of the Dale to see a group of semi-mature trees which was planted a while ago.

Money to plant new trees will, pleasingly, come from the sale of timber from the felled and reduced trees in the Dale. Villagers are to be invited to buy the nine-inch rings of unseasoned, unsplit wood at a cut-price rate. They will be for sale on Saturday 24 October - please phone Jon to arrange a time and quantity to collect.

Trees are a specialist subject, one which attracted Jon to leave his previous career in engineering to retrain and launch the family business Treespace. "I grew up in Norway with big trees, I also like climbing and working with timber. So it's the perfect job for me."

For villagers needing tree care, Jon's advice is to look for a tree surgeon with qualifications, experience and insurance. In his role as Tree Warden, Jon offers free advice: "If people have a question about a tree of theirs, they are welcome to call me and ask." You can call **Jon** on **772363** or email **info@treespace.co.uk**.

## Marie Curie

On behalf of Marie Curie Cancer Care, Sidney Beecroft would like to thank the residents of Ripley Road for their generosity in contributing £65 towards the funding of nursing care in a recent house-to-house collection.

## Bip does the Biz



Bip Wetherell would like to thank everyone who came along and supported his 60th birthday garden party and the Hunting Lodge ball, which raised £4,000 and £1,800 respectively for the Prostate Cancer Charity. This brings the total raised by Bip this year to an amazing £6,000! Bip is pictured above performing with Jess Conrad and Tornado's drummer Clem Catinni.

## New Roving Reporter for C&M News



A huge welcome to Andy Gilgrist of Church Street who has kindly agreed to step into Graham Ley's shoes as roving reporter for Cottingham and Middleton News while Graham is away in Helsinki.

You can read Andy's first article on Cottingham's tree warden, Jon Dixon, on the left.

# What's On

## Harvest Celebrations

### Methodist Church, 19 to 21 Sep



Cottingham Methodist Church is holding a weekend of activities as part of its Harvest Thanksgiving celebrations.

On Saturday 19th, they are serving ploughman's lunches, fruit tarts, coffees and teas for just £4, from 12 noon to 2pm, and the church will be open for viewing until 5pm. On Sunday, there's a Harvest Songs of Praise at 6pm led by Rev David Moody and, on Monday, an 'All Winners' Raffle of Produce' with tea and coffee from 2pm to 5pm.

### St Mary Magdalene, Sun 4 Oct, 6pm

Harvest songs of praise followed by a sharing harvest supper.

### Fri 9 Oct, 7.30pm

#### Fun Charity Quiz, Spread Eagle

Spread Eagle landlord Sam Perkins and our own local Mastermind contestant Jack Pearce are hosting a fun charity quiz on in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. Entry is £2 per team.

For more information contact **Sam** or **Stella** on **772038**.

### Tue 29 Sep, 27 Oct and 24 Nov

#### Meet your CPSO

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 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm on any of the above dates.

### Fri 16 Oct, 8pm

#### Desperate Housewives

Join the desperate housewives of Cottingham and Middleton for a meal 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.

### Sat 17 Oct, 7.30pm

#### Village Quiz, Village Hall Annex



Ant Licquorish's next charity quiz (number 35) is in aid of St John Ambulance. 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 then 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 by either of the above methods.

### Fri 23 Oct, 7.30pm

#### Charity Ball, Hunting Lodge



Come to the Ball at the Hunting Lodge, being held to raise money for breast and prostate cancer charities. Arrival is at 7pm for 7.30pm and the event includes a sit down meal and live music from Bip Wetherell. Tickets priced £35 are available from **Dorothy Anderson** on **772472**.

### Sat 24 Oct, 8pm

#### Village Dance, Village Hall Annex

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

### Sun 8 Nov, 10.45am

#### Remembrance Sunday

A joint remembrance service between St Mary Magdalene and the Methodist Church 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.



## 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  
Mike Oakley, **01604 825889**  
mike.oakley@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  
Pam Moore, **770022**

Methodist Hall  
Joan Jarman, **771193**

Rev Sian Reading, **770237**  
sianreading@tinyonline.co.uk

## Clubs and Groups

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

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

WRVS  
Sue Jefferson, **771822**

Mums and Tots  
Sandra Battersby, **770184**

Cottingham Craft Club  
Emma Davies, **771221**

Wesley Guild  
Cyril Liqueorish, **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**