



Cottingham and Middleton News

November/December 2018

Available online at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk



**9-11 November
Remembrance
Weekend**
See back page



Welcome to the latest village newsletter. Although it's a little way off, this issue includes a list of all the Christmas events we're currently

aware of. As there won't be another newsletter until January, please keep an eye on the village website and Facebook page for all the latest information. Or you can join our email list on the website to receive the latest news directly to your inbox.

Community spirit

Most villagers will be aware that there has been a spate of petty crime in the villages recently, including a break-in at the Village Store (see page 2). While it's an awful thing to have happened, the response from the community, rallying together to support each other following these incidents, has been fantastic.

It also reminds us how valuable the Store and Café is to the villages – it's not just a place to buy your groceries, it's an invaluable hub where people can meet up, chat and see a friendly face, right at the very heart of our village community.

Please make an effort to support your Village Store and local pubs whenever you can, especially when they have events on.

And finally, if you'd like to join the shop's team of dedicated volunteers, please pop in or give them a call on 770097. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours here and there, every little really does help.

Jane Smith, Editor

3 Corby Road, tel 770821, email jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk



[Facebook.com/
CottinghamandMiddleton](https://www.facebook.com/CottinghamandMiddleton)

**Next issue
January 2019**

Diamond anniversary

Congratulations to Ted and Margaret Partridge of Stonepit Drive, Cottingham, who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary later this month. Ted (aged 80) and Margaret (aged 77) have lived in the village for 45 years. They have two children, Stephen and Susan, and Stephen's son Daniel is expecting Ted and Margaret's first great grandchild any time now. Exciting times ahead for a wonderful couple!



Welland Wanderer bus service

Wilbarston Parish Council has been leading a project to reinstate bus services following the withdrawal of the No.67 in May. We are delighted to confirm that, supported by funding from Kettering Borough Council, Lawson's of Corby has been contracted to provide a two morning a week bus service as follows:

Tuesdays to Market Harborough, leaving Cottingham around 9.30am and returning from Harborough at 12.30pm.

Fridays from Wilbarston to Corby, stopping in Cottingham just after 9.30am and returning from Corby around 12.30pm.



Full timetables, fares and a start date for the service will be available shortly. The bus being used on the route has full disabled access and bus passes are still valid.

Rev Sidney George Beecroft (1934 to 2018)

Sidney Beecroft died peacefully on 26 September aged 84 with his family at his side at Kettering General Hospital, following a period of illness. Held at Corby Baptist Church, which Sid himself built back in the early 1960s, the funeral service was led by an old college friend, David Miller. At Sid's request, the Valley Voice Choir also delivered a moving rendition of 'God So Loved The World', based on the Gospel of St John 3:16.

Sid will be fondly remembered for his positive outlook on life, cheeky sense of humour, warmth and friendliness, whether he was enjoying a glass of red wine in The Royal George, popping into the Village Store for his paper or delivering a service at one of our local churches. He was an active supporter of the Liberal Democrats, Christian Aid and Leicester City FC. He also enjoyed growing vegetables on his allotment and was Captain of the second 11 at Great Oakley Cricket Club.



Sid's children Mark, Nigel and Claire would like to thank everyone for their kind tributes and memories of their dad. They would also like to thank everyone who came along to his funeral and for their generous donations of £431 for Christian Aid. "Dad lived a full and interesting life and we are very proud of him," says Claire. "He believed in eternal life and I'm sure, wherever he is, he is adding to his story in magnificent and wonderful ways."

If you'd like a copy of Sid's book 'What's it all about, Sidney?', you can pick one up from the Village Store and Café for free, or in return for a donation to Christian Aid.

Parish Councils

Cottingham

Chair: David Grayson
Clerk: Peter Taylor
01536 761752,
5 Headlands, Desborough
NN14 2QA, email
peter.taylor6@btinternet.com

Next meetings

Wed 7 Nov, 7.00pm
Wed 5 Dec, 7.00pm

www.cottingham-northants-pc.org.uk

Middleton

Chair: Sarah Brant
Clerk: Justina Medwell
01536 771232, 5 Main Street,
Middleton, LE16 8YU, email
clerk@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

Next meetings

Tue 20 Nov, 7.30pm
Tue 18 Dec, 7.30pm

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

All meetings take place at the Village Hall Annex on Berryfield Road, next to the school.

Dog mess...again

We've had a few complaints about an increase in dog mess in the Bancroft Road / Stonepit Drive area.

If you are one of the offenders, please clean up after your dog – and take it home with you, don't leave bags of poo hanging on trees for other people to clean up. Seriously...

Villagers and Police react to recent crime spree

As you may be aware, there has been a spate of recent break-ins at the Village Store, the Spread Eagle pub and the Naz Lounge (Nazz Spice) in Middleton, which have been identified as part of a wider wave of burglaries at nearly 30 pubs and business premises across the Corby area.

Local business owners and Corby Borough Councillors have reacted angrily to this crime spree, saying that the closure of the Elizabeth Street Police Station in Corby at the end of last year has left the town an 'easy target' for crime gangs, with 999 responses taking some 25–30 minutes to arrive from Kettering.



The Police have responded by stepping up night time patrols of premises and establishing an operation combining resources from intelligence, crime and crime prevention. This has resulted in 39 year old Ross Laird of 'no fixed abode' being charged in connection with burglary at a business premises in Lloyds Road, Corby. The Police are pursuing a number of other lines of enquiry and are hopeful of positive results. Our local PCSO Joe Devlin held a Police Surgery at the Village Store on 24 October.

There have also been a few house break-ins, vehicle thefts and damage in the villages, plus an assault on a horse and the daylight theft of a bottle of gin from the Village Store.

If you see or are a victim of crime, please always report it as it can help the Police to identify patterns. If you see a crime in progress ring 999 or, for any other incidents, call the Police non-emergency number 101. You can also contact our **PCSO Joe Devlin** on email Joseph.Devlin@northants.pnn.police.uk and you can report incidents online at northants.police.uk/webform/report-crime

The footpath sign pointing towards the Golf Course on the old A427 is also constantly being vandalised. If you see anything untoward, please let Cottingham Parish Council know.



Northamptonshire
Neighbourhood
Alert

Sign up for this new free service to be kept updated with crime, witness appeals and general policing activity in your local area at northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk

Village Store donations and charity raffle

The Village Store and Café would like to thank their neighbours who helped clear up in the early hours following the break-in on 2 October, and Kevin Gibson from the Royal George who has kindly loaned them a till while a replacement for their stolen empty till is being sourced.

Thanks too to all the villagers who have made donations to the shop totalling £929, and everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets for the charity raffle. The raffle has raised £255 to be split between Lakelands Hospice and the Air Ambulance, which will more than replace the money that was in the charity boxes stolen in the break-in. Pop in to the shop to see if you've won a prize in the raffle – they are all on display in the upstairs room.



Cottingham PC update from David Grayson, Chair

"We are working with Middleton PC on a number of issues and have recently held a successful joint meeting. The Parish Council is keen to see the Village Fete run in 2019 and we are in the process of discussing how we can help, in partnership with Middleton PC. If we can find some way to make the fete a reality, help from people in the village will be appreciated. We will keep you posted.

"A number of jobs need to be done – a tree survey to check the health of the village trees is being organised (sadly our Tree Warden has resigned) and we are trying to improve the safety aspects of the path above the Church Wall on Church Street. We are also constantly asking Northants County Council to improve the road surfaces around the village.

"And finally, a warm welcome to our new Parish Councillor, John Adams."

Corby Foodbank Christmas challenge

St Mary Magdalene Church invites you to join their Christmas challenge for Corby Foodbank. This year, the Church will be hosting a drive for the Foodbank during the first two weeks of December. Food and toiletries can be taken to the Church at the Sunday services on 1 or 9 December, left at St James' Church, Gretton, or contact **Kathryne** on randktilley@outlook.com, telephone **07870 101658**. The Church will ensure that all items are delivered swiftly to Corby Foodbank for them to distribute before Christmas.

For more information about Corby Foodbank and what to donate, visit www.corby.foodbank.org.uk

Cottingham School hits all the right notes

Cottingham School is delighted to have retained its 'Good' Ofsted rating at a recent inspection, with the Inspector commenting that the school is a calm and welcoming learning environment with busy classrooms where pupils behave well and work hard. He also mentioned that staff are caring, modelling the school's values well, and that teachers inspire children to learn. Standards have improved, especially in maths and phonics (listening and learning letter sounds), with pupils saying they are proud to be part of the school community and that the school 'feels like a big family'.

School head teacher Ashley Scott said: "These results truly recognise all the hard work that has been put into education at the school since we became an Academy in March 2016. Staff old and new have all played a part in the school's success and journey so far. The whole community should be very proud of 'our' school and we would love to welcome new parents and their children to come and visit, especially if they are looking for September 2019 school places."



Cottingham schoolchildren also hit the right notes with opera star **Carly Paoli** who visited the school recently to do some vocal exercises and work with them to learn and perform a song. The children said that Carly's beautiful mezzo soprano voice "sounded like chocolate aero" and that it was "like snuggling up in bed". Rising classical star and BRIT nominee Carly has performed with some of world's greatest singers including Andrea Bocelli and José Carreras.



Well done too to Cottingham School administrator **Carolynn Southcombe**, who raised £1,268 by walking the route of the London Marathon recently, crossing the finish line in 10 hours 19 minutes, including pit stops. The money she's raised will be used to revamp the school's outdoor play area.

Planning matters

Spread Eagle: The planning application to erect a house on part of the Spread Eagle car park, leaving 12 spaces in place for the pub, has drawn at least 17 objections, including from Cottingham Parish Council. Northants County Council Highways have also said that they cannot support the application in its present form. We await a decision on this.

Local Plan: Corby Borough Council is developing a Local Plan to supplement the North Northants Joint Core Strategy, which was adopted in July 2016. As the latest consultation document is 108 pages long, our two Parish Councils have prepared a useful summary for you, which is available on the village website.

Neighbourhood Plans: The Local Plan states that 'Neighbourhood Plans will supersede this Plan for their respective designated areas'. If villages wish to keep control of their environment, the development of a Neighbourhood Plan will therefore be important. Cottingham has already been designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area, and Cottingham Parish Council is now looking to set up a group to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the village.

West Corby extension: An amended application and plans have been submitted for the West Corby extension by the water towers on the A6003. It is expected that the plans will go before Corby Borough Council's Development Control Committee for consideration at a special meeting in December.

Helping our hedgehogs

Ant Licquorish's charity quiz on 27 October raised more than £500 for [Jen's Hedgehog Rescue, Corby](#).



Based in Great Oakley, Jen is doing an amazing job rescuing and caring for our spiky friends which are now an endangered species.

Thanks to Ant, the 19 teams who took part and all who helped with the event.

And just a reminder, with bonfire night approaching, please build your bonfire on the day it is to be lit and never on top of piles of leaves, as there may be hedgehogs nesting underneath.

Jelly Toffee



Chuck Middleton chose the Royal George pub for the launch of his second book of poetry 'Jelly Toffee' in October. Chuck says he has an affinity with The George having performed his first ever gig there as 'Chuck the Poet' back in June 1992.

Copies of *Jelly Toffee* and Chuck's first book *Beer Bread and Biscuits* are available for £4.99 each from 3ppublishing.co.uk

Upstairs at the shop...

The sale of wellies and riding boots held in the upstairs room at the Village Store in September attracted lots of interest, and the organisers also donated £50 to the shop from the profits they made on the day. If you would like to use the upstairs room for a sale or event, please contact the shop on 770097, email cottinghamshop@gmail.com

Nazz Spice Cocktail Bar

The newly rebranded, 'Nazz Spice of Middleton' has opened a new cocktail and wine bar, offering a bar menu of Indian snack platters. Pop down and give it a try.



What's on

For latest events, see
www.cottinghamnews.co.uk

Fri 9 Nov, school WW1 memorial plaque, 1–2pm

Cottingham Primary School is holding a day of remembrance on 9 November. If you would like to see the engraved plaque in the school hall, inscribed '*in memory of the old boys of the school who fell in the Great World War 1914-1918*' with a list of the fallen, please pop in to the school between 1 and 2pm. This plaque used to hang in the old school on School Lane.



Sun 11 Nov, Remembrance Service and WW1 Centenary Event, 10.45am–2pm

10.45am: Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Mill Road.

11.30am: Centenary Event, Village Hall Annex, starting straight after the Remembrance Service. We will be serving hot drinks, soup and cakes and you can browse our fascinating displays, including an exhibition commemorating the villages' brave soldiers, vintage toys from Kettering Museum and crafts from the 'Made in the Village' group and Cottingham School.



11.45am to 1.10pm: Live music from the era performed by Neil Campbell on accordion, the 'Welland Valley Pals' fiddle duo, Alright JACK saxophone quartet and the Valley Voice Choir.

1.15pm: A time to remember, roll call of the men who gave their lives for us, a reflective two minutes silence and The Last Post and Reveille, which will be played for us by a professional cornet player from the Black Dyke Band.



Sat 3 Nov, Spread Eagle

Live music from the Yellow Dog Rhythm and Blues Band, 8.30 to 11pm.

Fri 9 Nov, 7 for 7.30pm

Ann & Ray Brett, Village Hall Annex

Popular local duo performing Country and Western, 60s, 70s and 80s music. There's a pay bar and nibbles. Tickets are £7 from Irene on 770059 or Audrey on 771084.

Sat 1 Dec, 7.30 for 8pm

Dave's Quiz, Village Hall Annex

Dave Curtis is running a quiz night for teams of up to four people. Entrance is £2 per person and there will be nibbles provided. Please bring your own drinks, including alcohol.

Travelling crib

Would you like to offer a home for a set of knitted crib figures for a night in December, as they travel around our villages in search of a place to stay, symbolising Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem? Contact Angela on 772297.

Christmas diary dates

20 and 22 Nov, Rockingham Castle

The Valley Voice Choir will be singing carols at the Rockingham Castle Victorian Christmas event from 6.30 to 7.30pm.

Sat 24 Nov, Methodist Xmas Fair

At the Methodist Hall on Corby Road, from 2–4pm.

Sun 2 Dec, East Carlton Xmas Fair

Valley Voice will be performing at the East Carlton Country Park Christmas Fair along with the Gretton Silver Band. There will be lots to see and do. The event takes place from 1–4pm.

Fri 14 Dec, Christmas concert

Christmas concert at the Village Hall Annex from the Valley Voice Choir and friends.

Fri 21 Dec, Carols round the pubs

Valley Voice will be visiting the Spread Eagle and Royal George to spread some Christmas cheer.

Christmas Eve, The Christmas Story

We will be starting in Middleton at 4pm and walking up to Cottingham Church, stopping off along the way for a retelling of the Christmas Story. Call Angela on 772297 if your child would like to dress up and be part of the story.

Church and Carol Services



Sun 16 Dec, 6pm

Carols by candlelight at St Mary Magdalene Church with the Valley Voice Choir, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sun 23 Dec, 6pm

Lessons and carols at Cottingham Methodist Church.



Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

Midnight Mass at St Leonard's, Rockingham.



Christmas Day, 10.30am

Service at St Mary's, Cottingham

