



# Cottingham and Middleton News

## February/March 2022

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

### Newsletter distributor needed for Cottingham

As you may know, the village newsletter is written and brought to your door by a team of volunteers. We currently need one more distributor for Cottingham. The newsletter comes out roughly six times a year, and the distribution round takes around an hour each time. If you can help, please contact me. My details are below.

### The Royal George

The Royal George pub is just about to re-open following refurbishment. We wish a warm welcome to the new proprietors, John and Pete. We look forward to meeting you.

### Andy Puchalski



As this newsletter went to print, we sadly learned that our dear friend and former Church Street neighbour Andrzej (Andy) Puchalski has passed away, having been ill for some time. Andy loved this village and set up the village [Facebook page](#) which, now with more than 1,000 followers, has become a vital part of the village news network. His beautiful photos of the villages will remain a lasting legacy to this kind and generous man. Our thoughts are with Beata, Christopher and all Andy's friends and family at this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

**Jane Smith, Editor**  
3 Corby Road, 07800 523077  
[jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk](mailto:jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk)

Next issue  
April 2022

### Cottingham Methodist Church

The first Methodist Church in Cottingham opened in 1808 and a second larger church, with a gallery for the growing congregation, was built alongside in 1878. But sadly, as many of you may know, the buildings have had to be closed.

Rev Andrew Farrington, Superintendent Minister for Kettering & Corby Methodist Circuit, said: "It is with sadness that I report that Cottingham Methodist Church will no longer be used for worship or by the community.

"Over the years, the Methodist premises have welcomed generations of families at worship. They have helped mark life's journeys of baptism, marriage, and death. Fayres and concerts, fellowships and meetings have been held, each helping to sustain the village community.

"However, the challenge of maintaining premises, keeping pace with legislation and other regulations has become increasingly difficult to achieve and sustain. After some period of prayerful consideration, the decision has been taken to designate the buildings as 'mission served'.

"Although there is no longer a designated Methodist building, continuing pastoral care is being offered to the church membership. Weekly worship and fellowship is planned at the nearest Methodist Church in Kingswood, Corby, and St Mary Magdalene CofE Church continues to be a place of Christian worship and welcome in the village. A member of the Methodist ministry team is also a governor at Cottingham CofE Primary School.

"I wish to thank everyone who has helped sustain the life of the Methodist Church at Cottingham. It is a privilege to serve in this community. I look forward to meeting with you at village events."

The family of worshippers from Cottingham Methodist Church placed a bunch of golden roses with the above note on the door of the Church. They also provided the following farewell message: "After over 200 years of service and worship, and despite our best efforts, our beloved Methodist Church has been closed. We would like to thank all of you who, over the years, have supported us and joined us in worship and friendship."

You can read Rev Farrington's full statement, and also see some old photos from the Methodist's rich history, on the village website at [cottinghamnews.co.uk/methodist](http://cottinghamnews.co.uk/methodist).



OUR CHURCH MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM US BUT NO-ONE CAN TAKE AWAY OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LOVE.  
FROM -  
"THE FAMILY OF WORSHIPPERS BELONGING TO COTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH"

### The Village Store & Café

The Village Store would like to thank everyone who supported the shop in any way over the

Christmas period, including the raffle which raised £162.21 for the shop.

The upstairs of the shop has now been tidied and decluttered and can be hired for meetings or local groups. Please contact the shop to discuss your requirements.

To support extended opening hours, the shop is looking for part time, paid staff to work Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons, from 1pm to 4.30pm. If you're interested in a paid role, or in volunteering at the shop (no contribution of hours too small!), please contact **Audrey** on 07856 770857 or email [cottinghamshop@gmail.com](mailto:cottinghamshop@gmail.com).

# Parish Councils

## Cottingham



**Clerk:** Rachel Raj  
07584 212067,  
6 Church Street, Cottingham  
LE16 8XG, email  
[clerkcottinghampc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkcottinghampc@gmail.com)

George West-Robinson (Chair)  
David Grayson (Vice Chair)  
Colin Bates  
Mike Curtis  
Owen Davison  
Terri Mclean-Bowman  
Andy Mackie  
Sue Morphy  
Tom Russel

### Next meetings

Wed 2 Mar, 7pm  
Wed 6 Apr, 7pm

[www.cottingham-northants-pc.org.uk](http://www.cottingham-northants-pc.org.uk)

## Middleton

**Clerk:** Justina Medwell  
01536 771232, 5 Main Street,  
Middleton, LE16 8YU, email  
[clerk@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk)

Sian Coughlan (Chair)  
Leigh Morrell (Vice Chair)  
Stuart Appleby  
Alan Cole  
Teresa Denton  
Marie Thomas

### Next meetings

Tue 15 Feb, 7.30pm  
Tue 15 Mar, 7.30pm

[www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk](http://www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk)

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

## Decision time for Cottingham Neighbourhood Plan

### Referendum vote – 17 February, 7am to 10pm, Village Hall Annex

Most people who have ever served as a Parish Councillor will tell you how frustrating it is to be unable, by law, to exert any real influence on decisions about residential and commercial development in their parishes. Although Parish Councils are 'statutory consultees', they have no powers to approve or reject planning applications – they can only comment on them, and local planning authorities are under no obligation to take such comments into consideration.

But since 2011, the law has allowed communities to exert meaningful control and influence over planning decisions by formulating a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a complex process of research, verification, consultation and examination which culminates in a vote by residents to either adopt or reject the Plan.

Over the last three years, Cottingham Parish Council, with considerable assistance and input from several residents, has developed a Neighbourhood Plan for Cottingham. The Plan has passed through all the stages described above and Cottingham residents are now being asked to vote in a referendum on **Thursday 17 February**, from 7am to 10pm in the Village Hall Annex.

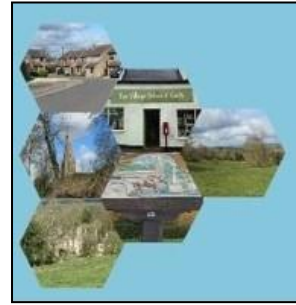
The Plan sets out various policies and stipulations covering housing developments, 'infill' housing (e.g. single dwellings on cleared or unused plots, or conversion of redundant buildings), and the protection and preservation of the village's environment and amenities. For example, only one entirely new housing development would be permitted within the village before 2031. The site selected for this, following last year's consultation with Cottingham residents, would be Hill Farm on Rockingham Road, for a maximum of 10 houses, predominantly affordable homes for local people, of a design that is sympathetic to the character of the village.

The Plan, appendices and detailed FAQs are available on the [Parish Council website](#) (details on the left). If you have any queries, please contact any of your Parish Councillors, particularly:

- David Grayson, email [davidgrayson@live.co.uk](mailto:davidgrayson@live.co.uk), tel 01536 771565
- George West-Robinson, email [grwrconsultingltd@gmail.com](mailto:grwrconsultingltd@gmail.com), tel 07891 159155
- Tom Russel, email [thomas-russel@sky.com](mailto:thomas-russel@sky.com), tel 07806 784212

Voting in the referendum to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan for Cottingham is a one time opportunity to affect decisions that will shape and protect our community. North Northants Council would be legally required to factor in the Plan's policies when considering all applications for development within Cottingham. If the Plan isn't adopted by a majority vote, it will cease to exist.

**If there's no Plan, there's no say.**



## Middleton Parish Council

Middleton Parish Council (MPC) is delighted to welcome Wayne Summerfield as their new Footpath Warden.

There is currently one vacancy on MPC. If you're interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact MPC Clerk **Justina Medwell** (details above) or Chair **Sian Coughlan** on **07774 852478**, email [sian\\_coughlan@hotmail.com](mailto:sian_coughlan@hotmail.com).

## Police priorities and update

Following residents' feedback, the Corby Neighbourhood Policing Team has announced the following top three priority issues for the area in the coming months: (1) road safety (2) drug dealing and misuse, and (3) antisocial behaviour involving motorcycles.

The team has seen a rise in the theft of keyless entry cars by thieves scanning the keys remotely. The Police recommend that you keep your keys away from window sills and outside doors, and ideally keep them in a safe, secure Faraday pouch. There has also been a rise in theft of tools from vans. The Police recommend removing tools from your van at night but, if this isn't possible, consider installing a secondary PIR alarm system on the back doors, and make sure your tools are clearly marked so you can identify them (not just with your initials). Please report any suspicious activity on 101 or online at [northants.police.uk](http://northants.police.uk), or if it's happening at the time, dial 999.



## In memory

We have bid farewell to three of our much loved villagers over recent weeks – Edna White, Chris Owen and John Muir.

**Edna White** sadly passed away aged 98 on New Year's Eve, at home surrounded by family. She had lived in Cottingham all her married life, for over 80 years, and had made many friends here. After meeting Reginald White, who lived in the old Manor House that used to stand on the site of the Spread Eagle car park, she moved into a cottage in School Lane and later to Bancroft Road. Edna went on to have four children – Sylvia, David, Jean and Graham. She will be fondly remembered.



One of Cottingham's most colourful characters, **Chris Owen**, passed away on 8 January, aged 78, doing what he loved – pottering in the shed and garden of his home at the former Post Office on Church Street, where Chris and Sue moved in 1977. Here, they raised their two children, Oliver and Imogen, and also ran their internationally successful business 'Museum Casts'.



Chris was an active member of the local community. He served on Cottingham Parish Council, devised the East Carlton Spring Festival through Nene Arts, which he founded, and set up the New Kettering Film Society. Chris regularly used his extensive historical and environmental knowledge to support the villages in many ways, including the development of Cottingham's Parish Plan and Conservation Area Appraisal, helping to build the case against unwelcome development in the village, and providing fascinating displays for village events, many of which he heralded in with gusto, decked out in his typically flamboyant town crier outfit. And not forgetting, of course, his annual stint as innkeeper for the village Nativity Walk!

He was on many committees including LEADER, and was instrumental in establishing and finding funding for the Village Shop. He also helped save The Dale for the village and, right up to the end, Chris could be found monitoring the flora in the Dale, including some rare species that are to be found there. The two village signs that Chris designed and produced for the Millennium will serve as a lasting memorial. He has been laid to rest in Cottingham Churchyard, and we will always remember him with a smile.

The family would like to thank everyone for their cards, presents, love and good wishes and are so grateful for all their kindnesses. You can see the order of service and a video from the funeral on the village website at [cottinghamnews.co.uk/Chris\\_Owen](http://cottinghamnews.co.uk/Chris_Owen).



Former Cottingham Parish Councillor **John Muir** sadly passed away on 21 January, aged 77. Our thoughts are with Lynette and her family. We will include more about John and a full obituary in the next newsletter.

## Middleton Village Sign

Middleton's Village Sign is now back in place having been beautifully repainted by Chris West-Robinson.

Ro Freeman, Sarah Palmer and Ali Freestone are pictured here when the sign was first erected for the Millennium, in the Year 2000. There's been talk of them recreating this photo – one for the next newsletter then ladies?!



The craft sale held at the shop in the run up to Christmas was well supported and raised £668 for The Mill. Many thanks to everyone who came along to buy the locally made crafts.

## Goatcycling!



The goats at Ganders Farm on Rockingham Road munched their way through 27 fresh Christmas trees just in January. Lauren and Ian Horton would like to thank everyone who donated trees to be 'goatcycled'! They are hoping to be able to do the same again next Christmas.

## Trestle tables

St Mary Magdalene Church recently took ownership of seven folding trestle tables, kindly donated from the Methodist Chapel.

They are stored in the Church and are available for village use. If you'd like to borrow the tables for a personal or village event, please contact any member of the Church, and they will arrange collection and return.

## DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

TO DELIVER THE *RURAL TRADER* IN  
**COTTINGHAM,  
MIDDLETON &  
EAST CARLTON**

THE MAGAZINE IS A5 & COMES OUT MONTHLY.  
THERE IS A 5 DAY DELIVERY WINDOW.  
MIN AGE 13 YEARS.

THE DELIVERY TIMES FOR THE  
AVAILABLE ROUNDS VARY BETWEEN  
1HR 20 MINUTES & 3 HOURS 20 MINUTES.  
THE FEE PAYABLE IS APPROX. £8.75 PER HOUR

Please call or email  
01509 814448 [chris@rural-trader.co.uk](mailto:chris@rural-trader.co.uk)

# What's On

For latest events, see [cottinghamnews.co.uk](http://cottinghamnews.co.uk)



By popular demand

## ITALIAN WINE TASTING



**19 March (SOLD OUT) and 9 April**

**6.45pm for 7pm 'puntuale' start!  
at the Village Hall Annex, Cottingham**

**£25 per person**

(Antipasti included – tickets non refundable)  
Proceeds to The Mill Community Hub Project



Bring your own glasses  
(2 per person)

Wine auction and raffle on the night  
Book early – limited tickets  
Contact Jan Robertson  
01536 771353 4 School Hill, Middleton



## Daisy Dots Photography

Daisy Dots Photography in Middleton will be starting baby massage groups in March. Local parents will be able to drop in with their



baby to learn some soothing massage techniques and get a chance to meet other local families. Daisy Dots are also holding family first aid courses, and are planning a coffee morning where you can pick up some handy tips on how to get the best from your camera, and compose pictures.

If you're interested in any of the above, please drop Nicola a message through the [daisydotsphotography.co.uk](http://daisydotsphotography.co.uk) website. And, if you have any ideas or suggestions on other events Daisy Dots could hold, Nicola would love to hear from you!

**Sat 23 April, 6.30 for 7pm**

## Charity Quiz, Village Hall Annex



Ant Licquorish's St George's Day Village Charity Quiz is in aid of Corby Mind. The cost is £10 each including food (fish, chicken or mushy peas and

chips), or £5 each if you want to bring your own. There is no bar so please bring your own drinks. If you'd like to come along, please let Ant know on **771062**, or email him at [ant\\_the\\_quizmaster@btinternet.com](mailto:ant_the_quizmaster@btinternet.com).

**Fri 3 – Mon 6 June**

## Queen's Jubilee Weekend



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is celebrating her Platinum Jubilee this year, and our two Parish Councils are working together to plan celebrations for the long Bank Holiday weekend in June, to commemorate her 70 year reign. More information coming soon.

**Fri 3 June, Charter Field, Corby**

## Corby Pole Fair

The Pole Fair is a unique tradition that takes place in Corby every 20 years. Fairs have taken place in Corby as far back as 1226 when Henry III granted the right to hold two annual fairs and markets, and the first documented Pole Fair took place in 1862.



It's thought the tradition could relate to the time when the Danes settled in Corby, and men committing minor offences were made to 'ride the stang' – being carried through the streets astride an ash pole or stang – while villagers threw insults and missiles at them!

Corby will be reliving many of the old traditions, including a dawn parade, reading of the town's Royal Charter at the entrances to Corby village, and a greasy pole competition.

Focused around the Charter Field behind the White Hart in Corby, there will also be lots of entertainment and community activities to enjoy. For the latest information, see [madewithmany.org/event/corby-pole-fair-2022](http://madewithmany.org/event/corby-pole-fair-2022).

## Valley Voices wanted!

The Valley Voice Choir is back rehearsing on Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm at the Village Hall Annex during school term time.

Membership is booming, but the choir always welcome new members, and in particular male voices.

If you're interested, please contact **Paul Aspinall** on **07943 984949** or email him at [valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com](mailto:valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com).

You don't need to read music and you can be assured of a warm welcome!



## Useful Contacts

Northants Police **101**  
[www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk)  
PC 820 Brad Wilson, PCSO 7030  
Chris Asante-Ampaduh  
[NeighbourhoodTeamCorbyTown@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NeighbourhoodTeamCorbyTown@northants.pnn.police.uk)

Corby Urgent Care Centre  
01536 202121  
[cucc@onemedicalgroup.co.uk](mailto:cucc@onemedicalgroup.co.uk)

Safer Corby Partnerships Officer  
Suzanne Preston, **463177**, [suzanne.preston@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.preston@northnorthants.gov.uk)

Corby Neighbourhood Wardens  
[karen.millsop@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:karen.millsop@northnorthants.gov.uk)  
[brian.houston@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:brian.houston@northnorthants.gov.uk)

Highways issues, North Northants Council, [northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://northamptonshire.gov.uk), search for 'Street Doctor'

Street lighting, North Northants Council, [customerfirst.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:customerfirst.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk)

Cllr David Sims, North Northants Council, **07966 221591**, [david.sims@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:david.sims@northnorthants.gov.uk)

Village Store and Café, **770097**  
[cottinghamshop@gmail.com](mailto:cottinghamshop@gmail.com)  
[cottinghamshop.wordpress.com](http://cottinghamshop.wordpress.com)

Village Hall Annex  
Angela Ruthven, **07538 719032**  
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/villagehallannex)

The Mill Community Hub  
George West-Robinson  
[george@themillhub.co.uk](mailto:george@themillhub.co.uk)

St Mary Magdalene Church  
Rev Amanda Oliver,  
[rev.ajoliver@gmail.com](mailto:rev.ajoliver@gmail.com)

## Clubs and Groups

Cubs and Scouts  
Gary Chisholm, **772331**

Valley Voice, village choir  
Paul Aspinall, **07943 984949**  
[valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com](mailto:valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com)

Rockingham Forest Wheelers  
Norman Needham, **771356**

New Cottingham FC  
Neil Jarman, **07708 323077**

Royal George Golf Society  
Norman Golding, **07768 536344**

East Carlton Cricket Club  
Sally Hitches, **01536 771733**

East Carlton Health Walking Group  
David Grayson, **772565**