



Cottingham and Middleton News

December 2022

Available online at cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the December 2022 village newsletter.

As the festive season draws nearer, we have

even more reason to celebrate this year, with the fantastic news that **Carolynn Southcombe** has scooped a much coveted and well deserved national Gold Teaching Award for her dedication to Cottingham School.

But's that not the only award that's come into the villages in the last few months. The school has also been awarded a Workplace Wellbeing Award from North

Northants Council. And **Ganders Goat** has won yet another award for their commitment to sustainability, this time at the **Weetabix Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards**.



I'd like to thank our two Parish Councils for their continued support for the newsletter, along with Lorraine Desmond, Marie Thomas and all the distributors who deliver the newsletter to your door, come rain or shine!

To all our readers in the villages and beyond, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Regards,

Jane Smith, Editor

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07800 523077

jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk



Next issue
Feb 2022

Carolynn wins national gold teaching award



Carolynn Southcombe, Administrator at Cottingham CofE Primary School, made national TV last Friday, when she appeared on the BBC's 'One Show' receiving a coveted national teaching award from the show's presenter, Alex Jones.

Alex had arrived at the school in disguise as a baker delivering an urgently needed cake. Unbeknown to Carolynn, her current and former colleagues, pupils and family had gathered in the assembly hall to surprise her with the award.

Carolynn has won the Gold Award in the Unsung Hero category of the prestigious **Pearson National Teaching Awards**, which recognise the nation's most inspirational educators.

Carolynn organises student enrichment trips, arranges weekly school yoga sessions, leads the Magnificent Minds group – working with children who then promote wellbeing and healthy living to other students – and the 'Love to Lunch' group, where family members are invited into school to eat with the children and enjoy sharing special time together. She has also raised thousands of pounds for the school and other charities through sponsored walks.

"I was overwhelmed to have been nominated in the first instance," said Carolynn. "Winning the gold is incredible and also a testament to Cottingham CofE Primary School, which really is an amazing place to work."

"I want to thank Mr Scott, our headteacher, for nominating me and letting me be me, leading the children in various activities to help get that important message across about looking after their mental health and wellbeing. I want to thank the children who really make our school the amazing place it is, and all the staff and school community for their support."

From...The Village Store & Café

Tickets for the shop's Christmas raffle go on sale on 1 December. Prizes include a hamper, that will be on view in the shop shortly, and the draw will take place at noon on 21 December.

Please see the notices in the shop for details of Christmas ordering and when there are no deliveries.

Thanks to Pauline Youngs and the Northamptonshire Crafters for raising more than £65 for the shop from their Craft Fair, held in the upstairs room in November. This is a great help to our fundraising!

We would like to thank our staff, volunteers and customers for all their support this year, and we wish you a very happy and healthy festive season. We are also grateful for the kind words and donations following the recent burglary at the shop. As always, we would love to see more volunteers for the shop or on the committee.

You can contact the shop on **01536 770097**, email cottinghamshop@gmail.com



Xmas and New Year
25 & 26 Dec: CLOSED
1 Jan: CLOSED
2 Jan: Open 8–10am
All other days, open as normal

Parish Councils

Cottingham



Clerk: Rachel Raj
07584 212067,
6 Church Street, Cottingham
LE16 8XG, email
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 7 Dec, 7pm
Wed 4 Jan, 7pm

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

Sian Coughlan (Chair)
Alan Cole (Vice Chair)
Teresa Denton
Marie Thomas

Next meeting

Tue 10 Jan, 6.30pm

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

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

Royal George welcomes new owners



Kareem Naaman (left) and Greg Costa

The Royal George has new owners, and we bid a warm welcome to **Greg Costa** and **Kareem Naaman**.

This is Greg and Kareem's third premises, adding to an award-winning sports bar/night club in Wellingborough and a sushi bar/grill in Bedford.

Together with their Operations Manager Pete Dooley, Greg and Kareem collectively have 50 years' experience in the hospitality industry, and they're really keen to listen to villagers to find out what we want from our local community pub.

In fact, they're already making changes based on the fantastic amount of feedback that's come in from villagers so far. This includes plans to get Timothy Taylor's and a session lager on draught, and they're working with the pub's talented chef Tomas on new menus, including a pub grub style bar menu.

They are also brimming with ideas for events and activities that the local community can get involved in, including quiz nights, family events and live music. They are particularly keen to feature local artists too, so if you live in the villages and would like to perform at the pub, please get in touch.

The pub is fully booked for Christmas Day, but there is now a festive menu available on the pub's [Facebook](#) page, so you can book your Christmas parties.

And if you have any feedback or ideas on what you'd like to see at the pub, Greg and Kareem would love to hear from you. Please call them on **01536 660505**, email info@theroyalgeorgecottingham.co.uk or message them on [Facebook](#).
Website: theroyalgeorgecottingham.co.uk.

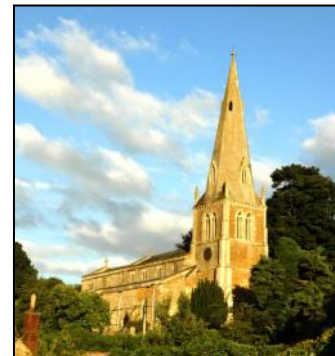
Fundraising Friends of St Mary Magdalene

The Church Committee would like to set up a fundraising group to raise funds for improvements and repairs at the church. Our community shows a great deal of goodwill towards our beautiful old church, and it would be wonderful to build on that and for villagers to feel more connected.

The Church Committee would also love for St Mary Magdalene to be used for more events.

Being part of this Fundraising Friends group would not presume any wider church commitment or attendance, but your help and ideas could help to preserve this wonderful piece of our village heritage.

If you're interested in bringing fresh ideas to the church's fundraising, or if you have an idea for an event you could help organise, the team would love to hear from you. Call **Angela** on **07594 682671** or email her at p.j55@btinternet.com if you'd like to get involved.



Parliamentary constituency changes

The Boundary Commission is reviewing Parliamentary constituencies to rebalance the number of electors in each, and is proposing to move Cottingham and Middleton from the current 'Corby and East Northamptonshire' Constituency, to Kettering Constituency. The map opposite shows the proposed new boundaries. If you have any comments on this, please submit them online at bcereviews.org.uk before 5 December 2022.



Avian Flu

There have been increasing incidences of Avian Flu among wild birds in the local area. If you see a dead bird, please do not touch it. Contact the **Defra helpline** on **03459 33 55 77** if you find one or more dead birds of prey, three or more dead gulls or wild waterfowl, or five or more dead birds of any species.

Cost of living support

There are a number of initiatives available to help with the rising cost of living, especially if you're on a low income or are receiving benefits or pension credits. This includes discounts and free meals from leading supermarkets, up to 50% off your Severn Trent water bill, a free Company Shop card if you're on means tested benefits, and financial help from North Northants Council's Household Support Fund. See cottinghamnews.co.uk/cost-of-living to find out more.

Pat and Don Licquorish celebrate Diamond Anniversary



Congratulations to Pat and Don Licquorish who celebrated their Diamond (60th) Wedding Anniversary in August.

The couple have lived in the village all their lives and were married at St Mary Magdalene Church on a hot summer's day in 1962, holding their reception at the Jubilee Hall, which was then located on Ashley Road in Middleton.

Don was born in Chamberlain's Yard, just off Church Street, and was part of a large family. His father Thomas Albert had nine siblings and his grandfather Charles William was part of the workforce that built the Welland Viaduct in Harringworth. After leaving school, he worked at the blast furnaces in the Corby steelworks and, when the works closed in 1980, worked as a machine operator until retiring in 2003.

Pat was born at Brickfield House on Rockingham Road, where ancestors of both Don and Pat had lived previously. Pat worked as a bookkeeper for EW Barlow and Sons (Agricultural Engineers) in Rockingham before taking on the role of caretaker (site supervisor) at Cottingham CofE Primary School in 1977, where she remained until 2003.

After their marriage, Don and Pat purchased a modest sized plot of land adjacent to Corby Road, at the top of the path down to Water Lane, for £800! Here, Don, together with other members of the family, built their first home – the bungalow which is the first property on the left when entering the village from Corby, and has since undergone a lot of changes. In 2015, when the size of the garden and the upkeep of the property became too unwieldy, they moved from Water Lane to a bungalow on Stonepit Drive.

Pat and Don were among the couples who would have been the last to receive a congratulations card from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II before her passing, which makes it even more special for them. Congratulations Don and Pat!

30 years of quizzing raises nearly £50K

Ant Licquorish's charity quiz on 29 October raised £411 for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported the event.

Ant has been organising these village quizzes for 30 years now, and has raised nearly £50,000 for charity during the process.

As each quiz takes a lot of organising, Ant has taken the difficult decision to make his 60th quiz, in October 2023, his last. However, if anyone would like to take over the administrative side of things (booking the hall, putting out chairs, sorting food orders etc), then Ant would be happy to continue compiling questions and acting as quizmaster on the night. If you're interested in this, please contact Ant on **771062** or email ant_the_quizmaster@btinternet.com.



Cottingham School vacancies

Cottingham CofE Primary School has a position coming up on the School of Governors Board. They have an outgoing Parent Governor that they would like to replace with a Church Governor. If you are connected with a church and would like to contribute to the ongoing success of the school and local community, please contact Chair of Governors **David Sharman** on **07881**

907646, email d.sharman@cottingham.pdet.org.uk. Ideally the Board is looking for someone who is not a parent of a child at the school and can commit time to this very valuable and rewarding role.

The school also has a vacancy for a Level 2 Teaching Assistant. Please contact georgina.clements@pdet.org.uk for more information. The closing date is 7 December.



Ooh la la!



The French wine tasting event on 22 October, led by our village wine buff **Brian Redshaw**, with hors d'oeuvres provided by **Del Robertson** and **Glynn Lowe**, raised £660 for **The Mill Community Hub** project.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the evening, including all those who donated raffle prizes.

Mobile flu jabs



Thursfields Pharmacy delivered 120 flu jabs to villagers at the mobile flu jab clinics held on Bancroft Road in October. Next year, the pharmacy is planning to hold a morning and evening session. Thanks so much to **Carol Malloy** for organising this fantastic service.

If anyone in Cottingham or Middleton would like to play bridge,



Graham Logan has kindly offered to host a game at a time that's suitable to all players. Please contact him on **07799 064410** if you're interested.

Cottingham FROGS (Friends of Green Spaces) are planting



bulbs along the winding path leading from Corby Road up to Stonepit Drive, and they are looking for donations of daffodil bulbs. If you can help, please contact **Karen Reuby** on karenreuby21@yahoo.co.uk



Church services

Sun 11 Dec, 4pm, Cottingham Church
Carols around the tree

24 Dec, 10pm, East Carlton Church
Holy Night Communion

24 Dec, 11.30pm, Wilbarston Church
Midnight Mass

25 Dec, 10am, Ashley Church
Holy Communion



Sat 10 December, 7pm

The Valley Voice Choir Christmas Concert will take place at Great Easton Village Hall.

Tickets are £10 to include a mince pie and mulled wine or soft drink. Please feel free to bring your own drinks too, and also bring some cash for the raffle!

Tickets are available from **Kathy** on **01536 770223**, **Diana** on **07811 098581**, **Pete** on psmith1309@hotmail.co.uk or **Lesley** on thesparkydoggy@gmail.com.

Fri 16 December

The Choir will be singing carols around Cottingham and Middleton, venues to be confirmed.

New Year, new members welcome

The choir now has members from Cottingham, Middleton, Great Easton, Medbourne, Weldon and Geddington. They rehearse at Cottingham School during term time on Tuesday evenings, from 7:30 to 9pm. If you're interested in joining, please contact **Paul Aspinall** on **07943 984949**, email valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve Nativity Walk



St Mary Magdalene Church is bringing back the Christmas Eve Nativity Walk for 2022, refreshed and reinvigorated.

They need performers, musicians, sound and lighting technicians and safety marshals. If you have any skills or equipment that could enhance this event, please get in touch.

All children are welcome – the more small angels and shepherds there are, the more fun it is! Wrap up warm, bring lanterns and lusty singing voices.

The walk will start near the corner of Middleton Main Street at 4pm and end in Church with a blessing, and there will be a collection for Corby Foodbank.

If you have any queries or would like to take part, please call **Angela** on **07594 682671**, or email her at p.j55@btinternet.com.

School Hill closure, 26 Jan to 8 Feb

School Hill, Middleton is due to be closed from 26 Jan to 8 Feb 2023, to allow Gigaclear to safely install telecom ducting. Residents of School Hill will still be able to access their properties, but there may be some disruption during the works as to which way access is gained. For more information, see the [village website](http://villagewebsite.com) or contact **Michael Rivers** on **07773 480732**.

Open Gardens, Sun 2 July 2023



St Mary Magdalene is planning an Open Gardens event in our villages to raise money for the Church.

A number of enthusiastic residents are already lined up to open their gardens for visitors, and the organisers are hoping to grow the number of gardens that will be open on the day.

If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with **Mary** on **771339** or **Angela** on **07594 682671**, email p.j55@btinternet.com.

Useful Contacts

Northants Police **101**
www.northants.police.uk
PC 820 Brad Wilson, PCSO 7030
Chris Asante-Ampaduh
NeighbourhoodTeamCorbyTown@northants.police.uk

Corby Urgent Care Centre
01536 202121
cucc@onemedicalgroup.co.uk

Safer Corby Team, for reporting anti-social behaviour
01536 464603, safercorby.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk

Safer Corby Partnerships Officer
Suzanne Preston, **463177**, suzanne.preston@northnorthants.gov.uk

North Northants Council
Street lighting, environmental issues, highways etc

0300 126 3000, customerfirst.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk

Corby Neighbourhood Wardens
karen.millsop@northnorthants.gov.uk
brian.houston@northnorthants.gov.uk

Cllr David Sims, North Northants Council, **07966 221591**, david.sims@northnorthants.gov.uk

Village Store and Café, **770097**
cottinghamshop@gmail.com
cottinghamshop.wordpress.com

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

The Mill Community Hub
George West-Robinson
george@themillhub.co.uk

St Mary Magdalene Church
Rev Amanda Oliver,
rev.ajoliver@gmail.com

Clubs and Groups

Valley Voice, village choir
Paul Aspinall, **07943 984949**
valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com

Rockingham Forest Wheelers
Norman Needham, **771356**

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

East Carlton Cricket Club
Marion Goodman

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



Join village email list at
cottinghamnews.co.uk/e-list



Sids Fruit and Veg Van is now taking orders for Christmas. Delivery and collection will be on **Friday 23 December**, when the van will be at Cottingham Shop from 9.30–11am and at Rockingham Forest Wheelers from 11–12.30pm. Home deliveries will be from 12.30–1.15pm. Order forms are available from the van on a Thursday or can be collected from the Village Shop, or you can order online at sidsfruitandveg.co.uk. Any questions, please call **Bev** on **07870 581990**.