



Cottingham and Middleton News

Spring 2023

Available online at cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the Spring issue of Cottingham and Middleton News.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Jane Smith, Editor

3 Corby Road
07800 523077



jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk



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



Cottingham
07792 912508
Middleton
07930 614621

Next issue
May 2023

King's Coronation



Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils have made a good start on a 'Big Lunch' event to be held

on the Recreation Field on **Sunday 7 May** to celebrate the King's Coronation weekend.

There'll be live music, and villagers are invited to bring a picnic, chairs, tables and pop-up tents / gazebos. In the case of bad weather, the Village Hall Annex will be used as a back up. More information to follow.

Ring for the King



Church bells have rung out for hundreds of years to mark significant events in our country's history.

If you'd like to learn to ring and be part of the team Ringing for the King on the Coronation weekend, the Welland Valley Bell Ringers are offering free training sessions at Ashley Church on Mondays and Wilbarston on Tuesdays.

Contact **Andy Bimson** on **07816 787639**, email bimsona@hotmail.co.uk.



Valley Voice hits all the right notes

The Valley Voice Choir continues to go from strength to strength. The Christmas season included a successful sell out concert, carol singing for charity and an appearance on BBC's 'Countryfile', broadcast from Rockingham Castle.

Preparations are now underway for a joint concert on 22 April with two other choirs and invited instrumentalists, to be held in Rothwell Church.

Valley Voice is a local community choir with 30 current members from Cottingham, Middleton, Great Easton and other local villages. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings during term time at Cottingham School and new members are always welcome.

Please contact **Paul** on **07943 984949** or email him at valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com. You can see a clip of choir members singing for the Queen's Jubilee last year on the village Facebook page, under 'videos'.

Blossoms Forest Care rated Outstanding!



Blossoms Forest Care, based in Cottingham, has been rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

A family business run by Mandy, Tom, Rory and Amy McDade, who are all highly qualified in Early Years learning and development, Blossoms offers pre-school

childcare in an outdoor setting, following a curriculum based on children's individual needs within the natural environment, using natural resources.

The business was set up from the McDade's home on Rockingham Road in 2020 and the children currently spend half their time enjoying outdoor activities on the 'Peachey Dale' field, off Corby Road.

"To gain an Outstanding Ofsted rating consists of high levels of commitment, dedication and training in all areas," said Mandy. "I'm absolutely over the moon with my team/family to be given this grade on our first inspection. We will carry on looking after our future generations, knowing that we do an outstanding job!"

Blossoms currently caters for 19 children aged 12 months to school age and there is a waiting list to join. For more information, find them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/blossomsforestcare) or contact **Mandy** on **07443 894173**.



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)
Mike Curtis
Owen Davison
Terri Mclean-Bowman
Andy Mackie
Sue Morphy
Tom Russel

Next meetings

Wed 5 April, 7pm
Wed 3 May, 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)
Leigh Morrell (Vice Chair)
Stuart Appleby
Alan Cole
Teresa Denton
Marie Thomas

Next meetings

Tue 14 March, 6.30pm
Tue 11 April, 6.30pm

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

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

From...The Village Store & Café

YOUR SHOP NEEDS YOU !

As always, we are grateful to the staff, volunteers and customers who keep our shop afloat. We have successfully secured a grant of £1,499 this year and we intend to use it to replace some of our ageing appliances to improve our energy efficiency overall.

You may know that the shop is managed by a Shop Committee made up of local volunteers (currently six), who oversee the running of the shop. They ensure all the legal, insurance and financial duties are met. They establish policies, employ staff and recruit volunteers. They gather feedback from locals, make changes to the shop stock and promote links with other local enterprises and community groups. Whilst committee roles are voluntary, members need to commit to meetings about every six weeks, and to taking forward any actions needed. Some members also cover shop shifts, but this is not a requirement.

In the summer, three committee members are stepping down, and we need at least three replacements for the shop to continue.

We are also extremely short of volunteers in the shop. Are you aged 16 years or over and can spare four hours on a weekly or on an occasional basis? No retail experience is required and training will be provided.

We know how much the shop is valued by our community, both for essential groceries and social support. We believe the shop enhances our village and would be missed. However it is only viable if it has more volunteer support.

Please contact **Sue Aspinall** on email sueaspinall58@icloud.com, mobile **07454 010582**, or **Audrey Teodorini** on email audreyteodorini@msn.com, mobile **07856 770857**, if you'd like to discuss these roles in more detail,



Warm Space Wednesdays

The Warm Space that meets in Cottingham Village Hall Annex on Berryfield Road every Wednesday is proving really popular, and it has now been decided to continue this social gathering throughout the year.

The refreshments have been extended to include a lunch of soup and a roll. There's no need to book, just turn up and you'll receive a warm welcome. The hub is open from 10am to around 2pm. Please do come along.



Ashley Road planning

Middleton RAG (Residents' Action Group) continues to express its disgust at North Northants Council's (NNC's) U-turn and decision to not contest the two planning appeals for Oakley Park, which are due to be heard in April 2023. Despite having written twice to the Leader of the Council, Jason Smithers, RAG has received no justifiable reasons for the decision, and therefore stands behind its assertions that NNC's problem with their five year gypsy and traveller land supply is the primary reason for their capitulation.

RAG is continuing with its own objection for the six pitch Oakley Park South extension and has independently drafted and submitted their own proposals to the Planning Inspector for this. RAG and Middleton Parish Council also continue to put pressure on NNC to ensure they are preparing a thorough and robust defence against the Peasdale Hill appeal, a date for which is yet to be fixed.

RAG is asking villagers to continue to put pressure on our local councillors and MP regarding this unacceptable situation. You can find contacts and all the latest information on these appeals at cottinghamnews.co.uk/ashley-road-planning.

Mill update from the Board of Trustees

You may have noticed we have been very quiet over the past year, but we assure you we have been working hard in the background to define the short, medium, and longer-term objectives for The Mill Community Hub project.



We start by introducing some new members of the Board – Sian Coughlan of Middleton Parish Council and residents Leigh Morrell, Peter Tyldesley and Andrew Butcher. We say a huge thank you to our most recent departing board members, Pete Bowman and Tony Freeman, for their hard work and commitment over the years.

Post-pandemic, we have seen a significant reduction in available funding pots to support the construction of new buildings and, typically, the small amount of funding that is available has tight 'green' credentials within its criteria. This means that the current plans for the proposed new building would need significant tweaking and, potentially, re-submission for planning permission. We recognise that these factors will cause significant delays to the long-term objective of building a new structure, so the Board has been thinking hard about what would be the next best move for our community.

At this time, we feel that prioritising the enhancement of the existing village facilities is the right approach. In line with our constitution, it has given us the opportunity to re-evaluate where this Board of Trustees can add value at this time to our community.

Our medium-term goal, therefore, is to support our friends on the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) to ensure we have a future-proof solution to the sustainability and profitability of our current community facility.

However, we are planning to build the car park element of the Mill project in the fairly near future, in the field beyond the school towards Bringhurst. This will have multiple benefits such as providing parking at school drop-off and pick-up times, parking for events and meetings at the Village Hall Annex, and enabling greater use of the recreational field for sports.

For us to achieve any of our medium/long-term objectives we need to begin with some smaller initiatives.

We will shortly be launching our calendar of fundraising events for 2023, including a welcome return of the Village Fete on 15 July. We really want to build as much village engagement and support to regain the momentum we had pre-pandemic, so if you have any ideas, or events you'd love to attend, please email leigh_hoppet@yahoo.co.uk.

We have created a comprehensive communications plan to ensure that we are keeping you all up to date with news, progress, and exciting changes throughout the year. Please keep an eye on our website at themillhub.co.uk, and our Facebook page, [@themillhub](https://www.facebook.com/themillhub).

Village Summer Fete, Saturday 15 July – save the date!

After four years, The Mill is resurrecting the Village Summer Fete, which will be held on Cottingham Recreation Field off Berryfield Road from 12 noon to 4pm on Saturday 15 July.

The Trustees are currently looking for volunteers to help organise some events and help out on stalls on the day. They are particularly keen to find someone who could sell advertising space and compile the programme which goes out to all homes in Cottingham and Middleton before the event.

If you're interested in helping out, please contact **Jo Leaning** on **07776 261647** or email joanne.leaning@btinternet.com.

As the team from St Mary Magdalene will be hosting the tea and cake tent at the Fete, they have decided not to go ahead with the open garden event that was originally planned for 2 July. If you're able to help out in the tea and cake tent, or bake a few cakes for the Fete, please contact **Angela Preston-Jones** on **07594 682671**, email p.j55@btinternet.com.



Sam's Landscaping



Sam Shelford of Ripley Road has set up a new gardening and landscaping business, Sam's Landscaping, offering fencing, landscaping, turfing and general garden maintenance, as well as summer houses and garden rooms. Contact **Sam** on sam.shelford@yahoo.co.uk, telephone **07833 477165**.

Knit for Ukraine



Soldiers on the front line in Ukraine are desperately short of beanie hats, and socks to keep their feet warm overnight. If you can knit or crochet and would like to help out, patterns are available from **Jean Wilkins** of School Lane, Cottingham.

Jean is working with the [Wool Zone](#) shop in Oakham and the UK Hand Knitting Association to make sure the items get to those who need them. Socks can be any colour and the beanies need to be in camouflage colours.

Contact Jean on jeannieinabottle@hotmail.com or call her on **07734 758282**.

Oil buying group

Cottingham's Peter Cooper is looking to set up a group for villagers with oil fired heating, with a view to buying oil in bulk as a group, thus being able to negotiate the best prices.

Each group member would be responsible for making their own payments, but Peter is offering to co-ordinate the group and negotiate with suppliers.

If you're interested, please contact **Peter** on **07795 037803**, email petercooper16@yahoo.co.uk

Village coach trips

Ali Freestone is hoping to arrange some coach trips and days out for villagers, friends and family this year, including theatre trips, garden visits, vineyards and shopping trips. Other ideas welcomed. If you're interested, please email alisonfreestone15@gmail.com and she'll pop you on the mailing list.

What's On

For latest events, see cottinghamnews.co.uk

Sat 25 March, 10am to 2pm

Church Spring Clean

Spring spruce up of St Mary Magdalene Church and the nearby grounds. All help would be most gratefully received, if you can spare the time. Refreshments will be available. For more information, contact **Angela Preston Jones** on **07594 682671**, email p.j55@btinternet.com.

Sat 25 March, 8pm

24 Carat Jazz @ the Royal George



Featuring Cottingham's Jane Smith on vocals and sax, John Deane on keys and Kevin Griffiths on double bass, this popular

jazz trio is playing live at the Royal George pub for the very first time.

Enjoy a laid back evening of jazz and swing favourites from the likes of George Gershwin, Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald, to name but a few.

Entrance is free, but please book a table if you'd like to eat. Call the pub on **01536 660505**.

Sat 22 April, 10am to 12 noon

Coffee morning church fundraiser

Mary Freestone invites you to her home for a coffee morning to raise funds for the Church. There'll be a raffle and delicious refreshments. For details, contact **Angela** on **07594 682671**, email p.j55@btinternet.com.

Sat 22 April, evening

Valley Voice, Rothwell Church

Planning is underway for a joint concert with Valley Voice, two other choirs and invited instrumentalists, to be held at Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell. More information to follow.

Royal George

The Royal George pub has introduced a brand new bar menu alongside their a la carte offering. Quizzes now take place every Thursday from 8pm, with cash prizes and two bar meals for £15 from 6pm. Keep an eye on the pub's [Facebook page](#) for the latest information.



Easter

Church Services



Palm Sunday, 2 April

10am	Walk of Witness	East Carlton to Cottingham
10.30am	Holy Communion	Ashley
7pm	Celtic Evening Prayer to begin Journey to the Cross	Wilbarston

Good Friday, 7 April

10am	Hot Cross Bun service	Weston by Welland
3pm	The Nail	Cottingham

Easter Sunday, 9 April

6.30am	Dawn Service with croissants and hot chocolate	Ashley
10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Stoke Albany

For a full list of Easter Services in the Benefice, see cottinghamnews.co.uk/church



Sat 22 April, 6.30 for 7pm

Charity Quiz, Village Hall Annex



Ant Licquorish's next Village Charity Quiz will be in aid of the Stroke Association.

So long as costs remain steady, the ticket price will stay at £10 per head

including a supper of fish, chicken or mushy peas and chips (vegetarian), or £5 if you'd prefer to bring your own food.

There is no bar, so please bring your own drinks (including alcohol). Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

If you would like to bring a team or two, please contact **Ant** on telephone **771062**, email ant_the_quizmaster@btinternet.com, with your food order as soon as possible to avoid disappointment, as places are limited.

This quiz, Ant's 59th, will be his penultimate quiz in this format, with the final one taking place on 28 October.

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](#)

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, **07901 941224**

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

