



Cottingham and Middleton News

Summer 2023

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Welcome to the Summer edition of Cottingham and Middleton News. I hope you enjoy this issue. Have a great Summer!



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Editor

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And I would walk... 100 miles!

Carolynn Southcombe, Bursar at Cottingham C of E Primary School, is walking 100 miles this month in a bid to raise £2,000 for the school and local children's mental health charity Service Six. She's walking with friends and family and also encouraging pupils and parents/carers to walk with her. You can support her at <https://gofund.me/243b9d36>, or use the QR code above.



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Litter pickin' great!

We'd like to give a big shout out to all our volunteer litter pickers in Cottingham, Middleton and East Carlton. These volunteers work very hard on a regular basis to keep our villages and the surrounding areas litter free, as well as reporting fly tipping incidents. Thank you all so much for giving up your free time to keep our villages clean and tidy.

Church bells revival

from Cottingham Parochial Church Council

We are delighted to say that the 'Ring for the King' appeal for new church bellringers was a resounding success, enticing six new ringers from our villages. We hope you enjoy hearing the bells more frequently and, in the hope of this resurgence continuing, we are replacing our worn bell ropes with a new set.

The cost is £175 plus VAT for each of the five bells, and most of this cost has been met by Mary Freestone's April coffee morning which raised a whopping £760. Go Mary! Thanks to everyone who came along and gave so generously to support this project. If you would like to make a contribution towards the new bell ropes, please contact **Angela Preston-Jones** on **07594 682671**, email p.j55@btinternet.com



On song with Valley Voice

The 'Three Choirs' concert at Rothwell Parish Church in April with Valley Voice, Albany Singers, Trinity Singers and invited instrumentalists raised almost £1,000 for the local Air Ambulance. Each choir performed individually and sang four joint numbers, culminating in a dramatic rendition of Carl Orff's *O Fortuna*, accompanied by two pianos and timpani.

Upcoming events for the choir include singing at Priors Hall Residential Home for National Thankyou Day on 2 July and at Cottingham and Middleton Village Fete on 15 July, a bus tour on 30 September and the Harvest Supper at Cottingham Church on 8 October. Then there'll be a range of Christmas events.

Valley Voice is a local community choir. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings during term time at Cottingham School. New members are welcome – contact Paul on valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com, telephone **07943 984949** to find out more.



Chilean wine tasting breaks all records

A record number of villagers enjoyed an informative and fun evening sampling delicious red and white wines from Chile on 3 June, co-hosted by Jan and Del Robertson, Glynn Lowe and Brian Redshaw, with expert guidance from wine specialist Brian.

This latest wine tasting was the most successful yet, raising a fabulous £994 from ticket sales, a raffle and the 'mystery bottle in a bag' draw.

These wine tastings, which have previously focused on wines from Spain, Italy, the Loire Valley and South Africa, have now raised a total of £4,048.74 for The Mill Community Hub Project.

It'll be Australia next, on a date to be confirmed in October or November. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list for future wine tastings, please email **Jan Robertson** at janathome246@gmail.com



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 Russell

Next meetings

Wed 5 July, 7pm
No meeting in August

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)
Caroline Boucher
Teresa Denton
Marie Thomas

Next meetings

Tue 11 July, 6.30pm
No meeting in August

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

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

Congratulations to Cottingham Parish Council (CPC) Clerk **Rachel Raj**, who has completed and passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration, which is the professional qualification for Parish and Town Council Clerks.

This has been a demanding two year course and CPC are very proud of Rachel for achieving this. Her studies and hard work have already brought significant benefit to CPC's proceedings, decision making and confidence in compliance with the many regulations and best practice guidance that govern such bodies.

From...The Village Store & Café

We've now used grant money to upgrade our kitchen facilities with appliances that are easier to clean and more energy efficient.

Following the theft of our safe last year by a masked intruder, we have also upgraded our security cameras both inside and outside the shop.

We are always looking for volunteers to work in the shop, but now also seek help from anyone with DIY skills who could help with general maintenance, plumbing or electrical problems that arise occasionally.

At the shop's shareholder AGM on 6 June, Richard Haigh gave our annual report, thanking many of those supporting the shop by name. Footfall and takings have increased, but our costs have also increased, and continue to do so. The treasurer's report revealed that we made a small loss overall during 2022. Wendy Curtis and Jane Chambers gave a visual representation of the underlying costs faced in just keeping the shop open. In some areas we make little profit, e.g. for each newspaper sold at 70p we make just 4p. The message – please buy something else when you pick up your newspaper if you can.

Sue Aspinall and Richard Haigh are standing down from the Committee. Wendy Curtis, Audrey Teodorini, Natalie Ryan and Dave Bowman were re-elected for the next 12 months. Jane Chambers, Jean Wilkins and Tracey Hinton have been elected to the Committee. We really appreciate their commitment. Questions were taken from the floor, and some useful suggestions were given as to how we might boost sales and use the upstairs room.

Please contact **Audrey Teodorini** on email audreyteodorini@msn.com, mobile **07856 770857**, if you would like to volunteer in any capacity.

In memory



James (Jimmy) Brogan passed away on 27 May, just 4 days shy of his 85th birthday. Jimmy was active right up to the end – walking his beloved spaniel Keira, up a ladder hanging bunting for the Coronation, enjoying a drink at the local pub and, of course, tending to the village flagpole. Born in Corby in 1938, he and his wife Nancy moved to Cottingham in the mid 1970s. Many people also remember Jimmy running the family bookmaker's business, Brogans, originally located in Corby Old Village before moving to Pytchley Court. He will be sadly missed by his three children Elliot, Marcia and Sanchia, his five grandchildren, two great grandchildren and everyone who knew him.

Elliot, Marcia and Sanchia would like to thank everyone who came to celebrate Jimmy's life, and the lovely messages of kindness expressed. Also for the donations of £283.50 for the British Heart Foundation: "Jimmy was lucky to live in such a caring community where he was able to spend his final years amongst friends. Thank you all."



Stephen Richard Moore, who grew up in Cottingham, sadly passed away on 11 June. Beloved husband of Julie, devoted father to Amy and grumpy gramps to Teddy, Stephen was a much loved son, brother, uncle and brother in law. His funeral takes place on 29 June at 11am at Kettering Crematorium, followed by burial at Shire Lodge Cemetery and then a celebration of Stephen's life back at the Blackthorn Wood Golf Club. Family flowers only please, but if anyone would like to make a donation to Muscular Dystrophy UK, that would be appreciated.

In search of the Wests

Peter West from Australia has traced his family back to Cottingham. His Great Grandfather John was born to William and Ann West (nee Aldwinckle) around 1819. Both John and his father William (born c1794) were sawyers and John sailed for Australia in 1849. Sadly, John's brother Thomas departed for Australia under rather different circumstances, having been sentenced to 14 years in Port Arthur, Tasmania, in 1842 for poaching deer on Lord Palmer's estate in East Carlton. If you are descended from or have any information about this family, please contact Peter on pandpwest@gmail.com



Cottingham FRoGS leap forward

By George West-Robinson

Cottingham Friends of Green Spaces (FRoGS) was established in 2021, taking forward the work that had gone into the environmental chapter of the Neighbourhood Plan to promote learning about our village's green spaces and undertake practical activities to preserve, safeguard and improve them.

Now with 25 members, FRoGs have got their hands dirty with a range of activities including cataloguing and researching the village's green spaces, learning about the species of plants and trees that flourish best in this area, planning and implementing projects to clear and plant, and

liaising with similar environmentally active groups in the region. In particular, we've planted around 25 trees and a hedge in a specially fenced off area of the Dale, and hundreds of bulbs on the bank on Corby Road, by the winding pathway up to Stonepit Drive. We are very grateful to the residents who have donated plants and bulbs, and the support we've had from some local plant and garden centre businesses.

From the start, we recognised the importance of establishing links with the school and, thanks to the very positive support of the Headteacher and his staff, we have begun a regular, practical session, led by one of our founder members, with some very keen pupils on the school's allotment-style space. Inevitably, the junior arm of FroGS are known as Tadpoles! In due course, with all the proper checks and consents in place, we will carry out activities in project spaces around the village where both FroGS and Tadpoles can work together.

If you're interested in becoming a member of FRoGS, joining our WhatsApp group, donating plants or bulbs or learning more about what we are planning, please contact **George West-Robinson** on **07891 159155**, email grwrconsultingltd@gmail.com

William Riddell Trust

Grants are available from the William Riddell Educational Trust, established almost 400 years ago in 1727, for Middleton residents aged 25 years and under to assist with the costs associated with learning a trade, profession or for further education after leaving school.

If you'd like to apply for a grant, please write to Richard Bamford, 46 Main Street, Middleton, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 8YU, giving your date of birth and explaining the circumstance and requirements, before 1 Sep 2023.

Cllr David Sims moves to Labour Group

Corby Rural Ward Councillor David Sims has announced his decision to leave the Conservatives and join the Labour Group.



Cllr Sims says: "After careful consideration over a period of time, I have eventually come to the conclusion that I could no longer agree with the route and course the Conservatives are taking, especially in Corby and the surrounding villages. I believe that joining the Labour Group is the most likely way I can address and highlight the needs of the local communities."

Boundary changes – what they mean for our villages and how to have your say

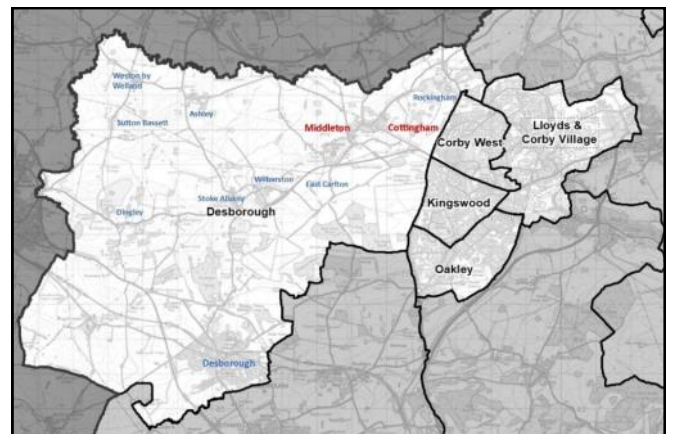
Following a parliamentary constituency review conducted late last year, Cottingham and Middleton will be moving from Corby Constituency into Kettering Constituency, which means that, in the next general election, we will be voting to elect an MP for Kettering Constituency. The current MP for Kettering is Philip Hollobone (Conservative).

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is now conducting a review of the local government electoral arrangements for North Northants. The review aims to ensure wards reflect community identity, provide for effective local government, and that each councillor represents an equal number of electors.

The LGBCE has published draft recommendations which, if adopted, would come into effect at the local elections in 2025.

These are the main changes for Cottingham and Middleton.

- The number of councillors in North Northants would reduce from 78 to 68.
- The current **Corby Rural Ward** would cease to exist and the villages of Cottingham, Middleton, Rockingham and East Carlton would become part of an enlarged **Desborough Ward**, along with Sutton Bassett, Weston-by-Welland, Wilbarston, Stoke Albany, Ashley, Dingley and the town of Desborough, all of which would previously have come under Kettering Borough Council.
- There are currently three councillors for Corby Rural Ward (David Sims, Kevin Watt and Macauley Nicol) and three for Desborough Ward. The new enlarged Desborough Ward would be represented by three councillors in total.



A 10-week consultation is underway and the LGBCE welcomes all comments, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries and the names of the proposed wards. For more information, a larger map, a copy of the LGBCE report and how to submit your comments (deadline 7 August), please see cottinghamnews.co.uk/electoral-ward

What's On

For latest events, see
cottinghamnews.co.uk

The Royal George

Summer Saturdays – live music, drinks and BBQ from 1pm every Saturday.

Pub quiz – first Thursday of every month.

Cocktail Club – Friday 7 July. Pop up cocktail bar with all drinks made by the pub's mixologist, using fresh ingredients

Keep an eye on the pub's [Facebook page](#) for the latest information.



Wed 26 July, 8am to 6.30pm

Sandringham Flower Show

There are still a few tickets left for the village coach trip to the Sandringham Flower Show. Tickets are £45 each from **Ali Freestone** on alisonfreestone15@gmail.com

Warm Space Wednesdays

St Mary Magdalene Church's 'Warm Space' initiative and Wednesday social has been a welcome and well supported diary date for many villagers.

The free weekly get-together for refreshments, cake and lunch routinely draws 30-40 people. As well as enjoying the company of friends old and new, the group has been visited by various organisations such as the Fire Service and Age UK, providing information. Well supported trips to Launde Abbey and The Shires Shopping Village have also taken place.

We hope this social continues to thrive and be enjoyed by our older villagers. If you haven't tried it yet, do come along on Wednesdays, 9.30am-1pm at the Village Hall Annex on Berryfield Road.

Police Surgery, 14 July

Come and chat with PC Brad Wilson on the Beat Bus in Cottingham, from 9.30am to 10.30am on Berryfield Road and from 11am to 12 noon on Stonepit Drive.



15 JUL 12PM - 4PM ★ **BBQ** ★ **BAR** ★ **COCKTAILS**

VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELDS BERRYFIELD ROAD, LE16 8XB

In conjunction with The Mill Hub Community Project, Cottingham C of E Primary School PPEL, St Mary Magdalene Church and Cottingham & Middleton Parish Councils. Music with Prosperity @villafete.com

For more information, see themillhub.co.uk

15 & 16 July, 9am to 3pm

Rockingham Forest Wheelers open weekend, Ashley Road clubhouse

Rockingham Forest Wheelers are holding an open weekend to celebrate 50 years at their current clubhouse on Ashley Road. The café and licensed bar are open, there are exhibitions of art and cycling memorabilia, and you can also join in one of the cycle rides. More info at rockinghamforestwheelers.org

The Safari Bar and vO Polo Club

The **Safari Bar** at the vO Polo Club on Ashley Road, Middleton is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 5.30pm, with polo Chukkas on both evenings and, on Fridays, live jazz from 9pm.

The vO Trophy and Summer Ball takes place on 8-9 July and, on 5-6 August, you can enjoy the Keep Calm and Carry on Playing Cup.

For details of tournaments and the club's social membership package, visit vopoloclub.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
Leigh McGivern, **07794 703206**,
leighmcgivern2@gmail.com

The Mill Community Hub Project
mail@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**

WhatsApp Groups

Cottingham Neighbourhood Watch, **07792 912508**

Middleton Neighbourhood Watch
07930 614621

Cottingham Chit Chat
07796 684065

