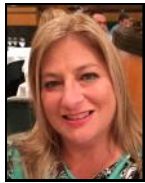




# Cottingham and Middleton News

December 2023

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



Welcome to the December edition of Cottingham and Middleton News.

As we head towards the end of the year, I'd like to thank our delivery co-ordinators and distributors for their ongoing support for the newsletter.

I'd especially like to thank Wayne Summerfield, Marian and Nick Cox for their sterling service over the years, and Jane Sheldon, Rachel and Nick Faulkner who have kindly agreed to step into their shoes. We couldn't do this without you!

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.

**Jane Smith Editor**

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07800 523077

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Next issue  
February 2024



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cottingham  
andmiddleton](https://facebook.com/cottinghamandmiddleton)



Join village email list at  
[cottinghamnews.co.uk/  
e-list](http://cottinghamnews.co.uk/e-list)

## WhatsApp Groups

Cottingham Neighbourhood Watch,  
07792 912508

Middleton Neighbourhood Watch  
07930 614621

Cottingham Chit Chat  
07796 684065



## Ant hangs up his hat

We'd like to say a massive thank you to Ant Licquorish who has hung up his hat after more than 31 years organising village charity quizzes that have raised almost £50,000 for good causes – what an amazing achievement!

Together with his trusty team of helpers – his parents Pat and Don, Alastair, John (sadly deceased), Beryl, Karen and George – Ant has staged 60 village quizzes, with the final one on 28 October raising £400 for NHS Together.

Although Ant is stepping aside from organising these events, if anyone would like to stage a charity quiz and is able to take on the organisational side of things – setting up the hall, sorting food etc – Ant would still be happy to set and deliver the questions. Please contact him on [ant\\_the\\_quizmaster@btinternet.com](mailto:ant_the_quizmaster@btinternet.com), telephone 771062 for more information. *Pictured above left to right are Alastair, George, Pat, Ant and Beryl.*



## Carolynn visits No.10

Our very own Gold Teaching Award winner Carolyn Southcombe, Administrator at Cottingham CofE Primary School, attended a reception at No.10 Downing Street in October to celebrate 25 years of the Pearson Teaching Awards.

"I felt very proud, not only for myself but for our school too," said Carolyn. "The children were very excited when I told them and children in Year 6 wrote letters to Mr Sunak expressing their concerns over the rainforest. I delivered these letters to No.10 and am delighted to say that a member of the communications team responded to the children almost immediately." Well done Carolyn, we'll have you running the country next!

## Pinky's Pastries opens at Blackthorn

A new tea room, Pinky's Pastries, has opened up at Blackthorn Wood Golf Complex, specialising in homemade afternoon teas, with breakfast baps also on the menu.

Natalia and Rob Pinkerton started their catering business from home in Corby three years ago selling artisan sausage rolls. This is their first customer-facing retail venture and the couple will also be running their corporate catering business from the premises.

Rob, whose first job was collecting balls at the golf range when it opened some 30 years ago, says he and Natalia are looking forward to welcoming villagers to Pinky's Pastries to give them a try.

Pinky's is open from 8.30am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday. To find out more or to book your afternoon tea, visit [pinkypastries.co.uk](http://pinkypastries.co.uk) or find them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).



Sid's Fruit and Veg Van is now taking orders for Christmas. Order forms are available from the van on a Thursday or can be collected from the village shop. You can hand your form to Bev up until 14 December, or send it online until 17 December at [sidsfruitandveg.co.uk](http://sidsfruitandveg.co.uk). Delivery and collection will be on **Friday 22 December**, when the van will be at Cottingham Shop from 9.30–10.30am and at Rockingham Forest Wheelers from 11am–12 noon. Home deliveries can also be arranged. Any questions, please call **Bev** on 07870 581990.

## Parish Councils

### Cottingham



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

#### Next meetings

Wed 6 Dec, 7pm  
Wed 3 Jan, 7pm  
Wed 7 Feb, 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)

#### Next meetings

Tue 9 Jan, 6.30pm  
Tue 13 Feb, 6.30pm

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

There are currently three vacancies on Middleton Parish Council. If you're aged 18+, have lived or worked within three miles of Middleton for more than a year and are interested in joining the council to help support and build a vibrant and cohesive community, please contact Parish Clerk Justina Medwell (contact details above) to find out more.

### Boundary changes

The proposed changes to local electoral ward boundaries have been ratified. In the next local council elections, Cottingham and Middleton will be part of an enlarged Desborough Ward, along with Sutton Bassett, Weston-by-Welland, Wilbarston, Stoke Albany, Ashley, Dingley and the town of Desborough. The current Corby Rural Ward will cease to exist.

The parliamentary constituencies for the villages will also change at the next General Election. We will move from Corby to the Kettering Constituency, where the current MP is Philip Hollobone (Conservative).

## From...The Village Store & Café

The Shop Committee would like to thank Cottingham and Middleton Copyholders for their very generous donation of £1,500, which will help towards increased shop running costs.

The shop is organising a Christmas raffle from 1 December, with winning tickets being drawn on 22 December. Tickets are £1 each and you can buy them at the shop, where the raffle prizes will also be displayed. All proceeds will go toward the shop's running costs. Please show your support by buying tickets.

In our efforts to extend the viability of the shop, we'd like to find out, from current and potential customers, the 10 items (or fewer) that you would like the shop to stock, be they currently stocked items or anything new you'd like to see on the shelves. Please send your suggestions to **Tracey Hinton** on email [tracey19662010@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tracey19662010@hotmail.co.uk) or mobile **07546 888188** by 30 December.

### Volunteers Open Day, Saturday 13 January 2024, 11am to 2pm

The Shop Committee is holding a Volunteers Open Day in the upstairs cafe area of the shop. Come and find out about volunteering opportunities over a free cup of coffee and a piece of cake. Volunteers are needed to serve in the shop on a regular or occasional basis, and we're also looking for more cake bakers and volunteers with specific skills including general maintenance, IT and social media.

For more information, please contact **Audrey Teodorini** on **07856 780857**, or email [audreyteodorini@msn.com](mailto:audreyteodorini@msn.com)

Wishing all our customers, staff and volunteers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



#### Xmas and New Year

25 & 26 Dec: CLOSED

1 Jan: CLOSED

All other days, open as normal

### 65 Happy Years

Congratulations to Margaret and Joseph Partridge who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in November.

The couple have lived in Cottingham for over 45 years, and they walk every day around their part of Stonepit Drive to stay healthy.

Their family and friends, and especially Stephen (son) and Debbie; Daniel, Sophie and great granddaughter Gracie; Susan (daughter) and Paul; Leanne, Lewis and great granddaughter Lily-Mae, would like to wish them a very happy and healthy anniversary, and many more happy years together.



### Awareness Day

Cottingham School held a Mental Health Awareness Day in October, where the children focused on

the five steps to improving mental health and wellbeing, including 'giving'. As part of this, the children raised £340 for the Air Ambulance, who came along to the school on the day to deliver an assembly.



### Peasdale Hill planning update

The planning appeal hearing for Peasdale Hill held in Corby on 7–8 November was not fully completed due to the amount of evidence the Inspector had to go through.

RAG representatives attended and contributed on both days through their planning advisor Philip Hughes, and NNC attended with their legal counsel and expert witnesses on highways, ecology, landscape, need and archaeology. Tom Pursglove MP had requested an opportunity to present at the hearing, too, but time constraints did not allow for this, so he submitted a written statement instead, which was accepted by the Inspector.

An online meeting has now been scheduled for 14 December for the final presentations of evidence from all parties, after which the Inspector will need a few weeks to make a final decision. If you have any queries, please contact RAG on [middletonrag@gmail.com](mailto:middletonrag@gmail.com)





## In Memory...

### Jim Wratten, 1924–2023

Jim Wratten sadly passed away on 30 August aged 98 at Polebrook Nursing Home.



Jim moved to Cottingham from London in 1971 to work as Dispatch Manager at Celebration Arts in Corby, where he eventually became Company Director. Jim embraced village life and served on the Parish Council for some years, was a regular church attendee and bell ringer and organised a number of litter picks, rewarding youngsters on the day with chocolates.

He lived with his first wife Pat in Bury Close before she sadly passed away in 1979, and married his second wife Mabel, who he had worked alongside at Celebration Arts, in 1992. After several happy years in Bury Close, they moved to Brigstock. Jim is survived by Mabel (now 103!), her daughter Jan and son-in-law Del, who live in Middleton. They describe Jim as an 'Old School Gent' – honest, hardworking, and a man who would do anything for anyone. Jim returned to Cottingham for his send off at St Mary Magdalene Church on 26 September.

### John Andrew Freestone, 1934–2023



John and Mary Freestone moved to Bury House (Cottingham Hall) after their marriage in 1960, where John set about improving the house, as it was in a bad state of repair and had been left for many years, first adding five flats, then converting the pig pens and hayloft into the Hunting Lodge restaurant. A banqueting hall was then built from the broiler houses. John gave part of the land to the council to improve the road to Middleton, smoothing out what was a very bad blind corner. Today, a tree stands on the island that was planted by John and Mary all those years ago.

On the rest of the paddock land, John, with the help of sub-contractors, built the bungalows and created Bury Close. Some villagers still remember the youth club that John ran, and the annual garden fetes held at the house.

John and Mary had Caroline, Charles and Andrew, but Andrew sadly died at 12 days old. In the late 1970s, John moved away to invest in hotels in the north, returning to live in Northamptonshire years later. He loved coming back to the villages and always had great stories to tell about his days running the house and the Hunting Lodge. John's children were with him when he passed away in Banbury Hospital after a short battle with cancer. He was 88 years old.

### Mill update from the Board of Trustees

Phase 1 of the Mill Community Hub car park is now complete. During October half term, the trees and bushes were removed and new permanent fencing was erected around the school boundary. Temporary fencing lines the edge of the road in preparation for Phase 2. The plans are currently with NNC and the Highways Agency, and Phase 2 is planned for the Spring.



The new car park will have multiple benefits such as providing parking at school drop-off and pick-up times, parking for events and meetings at The Annex, and enabling greater use of the recreation field for sports.

To keep up to date with what's happening with this project, visit [themillhub.co.uk](http://themillhub.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook at [Facebook/themillhub](https://www.facebook.com/themillhub) (search for 'The Mill Community Hub').



### Mobile flu and Covid jab clinic

The Thursfield Pharmacy mobile clinic delivered 56 Covid jabs and more than 120 flu jabs at 22 Bancroft Road in October. The team will be back offering flu jabs next year and has already fixed a date for Saturday 21 September, from 9am to 4pm.

### Rumble in the Jumble!

Kirsty Swallow's jumble sale on 4 November has so far raised £230 for Ronald McDonald House, with a few more items to sell online. "We had a fab day," said Kirsty. "People seemed really pleased to have a good clear out and we had very happy customers too." The plan is to run two jumble sales a year, with the next one around March/April 2024.

### Harvest Festival



The Harvest Festival at the Church on 8 October raised £210 for Corby Foodbank, with three big bags of groceries also donated. Thanks to Valley Voice, the Cottingham and Middleton Bell Ringers, and everyone who came along, donated and made the delicious harvest tea.

### Mill Project Fundraising



Del Robertson's Chilli Cook-Off in October raised £748 for the Mill Community Hub Project. Del would like to thank all the chefs who rustled up a chilli for the evening. The coveted 'Crown of Chillis' was retained by Lee Gray, whose chilli was voted favourite on the night. The other chilli chefs were Del Robertson, Glynn Lowe, Pete Smith, Jean Wilkins, Mary Knott, Jonathan Haddock and Joanne Leaning.

And the **Australian Wine Tasting** event held on 18 November raised £944 for the project, bringing the total raised from the wine tastings to a massive £5,053. This was the biggest tasting yet, with all 50 seats taken, including some first timers sampling the six wines.

If you'd like to go on the email list to find out about future wine tastings, please email [janathome246@gmail.com](mailto:janathome246@gmail.com)

Thanks to everyone who organised and attended these events, and also those who purchased raffle tickets and donated prizes.

# What's On

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



**The Mill Community Hub Christmas Fayre**

**SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER**  
12-2.30 PM

Village Hall Annex, Berryfield Road, Cottingham

**TOMBOLA Mulled Wine & Beer CAROLS**

**VILLAGE CRAFTS CAKES**  
**Mince Pies RAFFLE**

**Santa's Grotto Kidz Zone**  
**FESTIVE TREATS & MORE ....**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: [themillhub.co.uk](http://themillhub.co.uk)  
FOLLOW US ON FB: <https://www.facebook.com/themillhub>

Event organised by The Mill Community Hub, Cottingham C of E PTA and Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils



St Mary Magdalene Church  
**Sunday 10 December, 4 pm**  
**CAROL SERVICE**

Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, All Welcome  
With Cottingham and Middleton Bell Ringers  
and



**Fri 15 December, 9.15am**

## Carols at Cottingham School

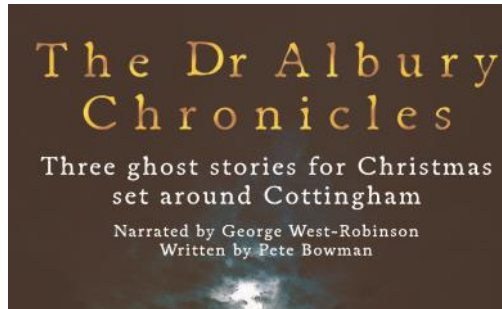
Veterans and older members of our community are invited to come along for carols around the Christmas tree at Cottingham School, along with coffee and mince pies, after which you'll be invited to help wrap presents to distribute to children less fortunate (i.e. hospice, children's services etc).

School Administrator and services veteran Carolynn Southcombe will also be offering 'fireside seated yoga', which is great to keep your joints supple over the winter months. Carolynn isn't a qualified yoga instructor, but she has years of experience!

If you'd like to come along, RSVP to [office@cottingham.pdet.org.uk](mailto:office@cottingham.pdet.org.uk) or phone **01536 771391**.



## Ghost Stories, St Mary Magdalene



**The Dr Albury Chronicles**

Three ghost stories for Christmas set around Cottingham

Narrated by George West-Robinson  
Written by Pete Bowman

This event being held at the Church on Saturday 16 December has now sold out. However, if there is enough interest, the organisers are hoping to run a second event on the evening of Sunday 17 December, starting at 4.30pm Tickets are £10 each to include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Please contact **Angela** on **07594 682671**, email [p.j55@btinternet.com](mailto:p.j55@btinternet.com) to register your interest.

## Christmas Eve Nativity Walk



Everyone is welcome to join in with this popular narration and re-enactment of the Christmas story, as we join Joseph and Mary on their journey to Bethlehem.

The organisers are keen for as many children as possible to take part in the angels and shepherds scenes, so please bring your children in costume, if they would enjoy that. There will also be some costumes available on the day.

The walk will end at the Church with the final crib scene, a short blessing from Rev Amanda Oliver and refreshments, and a collection will be taken in aid of Corby Foodbank.

Please wrap up warm, bring lanterns and your best singing voices.

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](mailto:p.j55@btinternet.com). We will be confirming shortly where the walk will start.



## Church services

**24 Dec, 11pm, East Carlton Church**  
Midnight Mass

**25 Dec, 10am**  
**Wilbarston Church**  
Christmas Day Service



## 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.police.uk](mailto:NeighbourhoodTeamCorbyTown@northants.police.uk)

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

Safer Corby Team, for reporting anti-social behaviour  
**01536 464603**, [safercorby.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:safercorby.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk)

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

North Northants Council  
Street lighting, environmental issues, highways etc  
**0300 126 3000**, [customerfirst.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:customerfirst.cbc@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)

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, Leigh McGivern, **07794 703206**, Facebook, [leighmcgivern2@gmail.com](mailto:leighmcgivern2@gmail.com)

The Mill Community Hub Project  
[mail@themillhub.co.uk](mailto:mail@themillhub.co.uk)

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

As well as the Carol Service on 10 Dec, the Welland Valley Voice Choir will be out and about singing carols at the following locations this season.



**Sun 3 Dec**  
1.30pm: Welland Vale Nursery Christmas Market, Uppingham

**Sat 9 Dec**  
10.30am: Rural Relaxing Campsite Cafe, Medbourne

12 Noon: Great Easton Village Hall

**Fri 22 Dec**  
**Carols around the villages**

7pm: The Sun Inn, Great Easton.  
7.45pm, East Carlton Cricket Club  
9pm: The Royal George

