



# Cottingham and Middleton News

## February 2024

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



Welcome to the first edition of Cottingham and Middleton News for 2024.

We're getting the year off to a flying start with lots of really positive news from the church, village shop and The Mill Community Hub Project.

The Mill Project raised around £10,000 in 2023, and the Trustees have an ambitious target to double that amount this year. There's a full programme of events on the back page and there's something to suit everyone, so get these dates in your diary and we look forward to seeing you out and about!

We've not yet heard anything concrete from the Royal George about a date for re-opening, but we hope to have our village pub up and running again very soon. Please be patient. We'll share any news through the village Facebook page and WhatsApp groups (details below) as soon as we know more.

Regards,

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

Next issue  
April 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



### Village churchyard gets goat power!

Ian and Lauren Horton of Ganders Farm on Rockingham Road have very kindly agreed to graze two of their goats in the old part of the churchyard to help get it tidied up.

The goats will be moved from section to section, where they'll be contained by a battery operated electric fence to keep them safe as they munch their way through the brambles and undergrowth.

Once the goats have tackled the extremely brambly section in front of the gate to the right of the main church door, you should be able to start accessing the old churchyard again. And if you need to access the area the goats are in for any reason, please contact a member of the church team and they'll happily escort you in. Please keep away from the electric fence though, and please don't feed our guests or they won't want to eat the grass, and that will defeat the object of the exercise!

This is a fantastic eco-friendly solution that more and more rural churches are using, as it's a struggle to maintain churchyards with limited manpower and funds. Ours is especially taxing because it is so large, steep and uneven.

We look forward to welcoming Lizzy and Princess in the coming weeks.



## From...The Village Store & Café

Following the volunteer appeal in the last newsletter, we are delighted to welcome on board villagers Mark Garlick and his partner Gabriella Fratangelo (pictured right).

Mark owns a local IT support and consultancy business and he's very generously offered to replace the shop's outdated IT equipment, provide training to users and ongoing technical support, all for free!

Meanwhile, Gabriella will be managing the shop's social media and working with the shop committee to help generate interest and further support for the shop. So please keep up with us on [facebook.com/cottinghamshop](https://facebook.com/cottinghamshop) and the village WhatsApp groups. And don't forget to use the comment, like and share buttons on Facebook as we develop the page.

The recent volunteers' open day was also very successful, with seven volunteers signed up and expressions of interest from two more, so thanks to all those who attended and offered their services.

We still have space for new members who want to join the shop's management committee. The committee meets roughly every six weeks to discuss issues related to the management of the shop, as well as being a point of contact for daily matters that arise. We have a responsibility to the shop's shareholders, but also aim to continually improve this invaluable village resource. If you're interested, please contact **Audrey Teodorini** on email [audreyteodorini@msn.com](mailto:audreyteodorini@msn.com), mobile **07856 780857**.

We're also bringing back our hot drinks loyalty card scheme – buy nine hot drinks and get the 10th free! Pick up a card from the shop next time you're in.



### Easter opening

Fri 29 March: 8am–1pm

Sat 30 March: 8am–1pm

Sun 31 March: CLOSED

Mon 1 April: 8am–10am

# Parish Councils

## Cottingham



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

### Parish Councillors

George West Robinson (Chair)  
David Grayson (Vice Chair)  
Andy Mackie  
Mike Curtis  
Owen Davison  
Pete Crane  
Sue Morphy  
Terri McLean-Bowman  
Tom Russell

### Next meetings

Wed 7 Feb, 7pm  
Wed 6 Mar, 7pm  
Wed 3 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)

### Parish Councillors

Sian Coughlan (Chair)  
Alan Cole (Vice Chair)  
Caroline Boucher  
Teresa Denton

### Next meetings

Tue 13 Feb, 6.30pm  
Tue 12 Mar, 6.30pm  
Tue 9 Apr, 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.

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

## Cottingham Parish Council – what would you like to know?

Have you ever wondered how Cottingham Parish Council (CPC) works and what we get involved in on your behalf? Well now's your chance to find out!

We have nine councillors (listed on the left). We're all village residents who give our time voluntarily to help improve the village and enhance welfare and wellbeing for us all. We support the Welland Wanderer bus service, monitor speed signs, make sure the grass gets mown and grit bins are stocked, oversee maintenance and repairs around the village and deal with any matters that might threaten what it means for us all to live here.

Behind the scenes, we review and comment on planning applications, form budget and precept proposals, liaise with NNC on highways and road safety matters, liaise with the Police, ensure documents and policies are up to date and run the CPC website.

We also have a number sub-committees, working groups and liaison roles that feed into the CPC, some of which, like Friends of Green Spaces (FroGS), have council and non-council members. Our footpath warden Sue Dixon is also not a councillor.

Our Clerk Rachel Faulkner is the only employee of the council. As a qualified clerk, her role is complex and demanding since, as well as providing guidance, information and advice, she carries out most of the administrative tasks and manages all the financial aspects.

If you'd like to know more about CPC and what we do for you, or are interested in getting involved in a working group or project, please contact the Clerk, any councillor or visit our website. All our contact details are on the left.

And, of course, you're always welcome to attend a parish council meeting, which take place on the first Wednesday of every month, except August.

Best wishes to all for 2024, **Terri McLean-Bowman** and **George West-Robinson**

## Ding Dong!

As we now have a full band of bell ringers from Cottingham and Middleton, including four new learners, we are now practising regularly at St Mary Magdalene Church on a Friday evening from 7pm to 8pm. We'll no longer be issuing weekly advance notice for these practices, but we'll continue to let you know if evening ringing is to take place outside of this regular slot.

We're extremely grateful to Pete Bowman and George West-Robinson whose 'Dr Albury Chronicles' ghost story events at the Church in December raised £800 to fund urgent repairs to the frame for bell No.3, which is badly rotted.

A further £20 has been raised from audio downloads of the ghost stories. If you missed these events and would like to listen to the stories, you can do so at [cottinghamnews.co.uk/dr-albury](http://cottinghamnews.co.uk/dr-albury). We'd appreciate a donation to the Church bell fund in return for downloads please. All details are on the website.

We're also installing a brand new set of bell ropes, funded mainly by a generous £760 donation from a coffee morning held by Mary Freestone last year.

For more information, please see [cottinghamnews.co.uk/bells](http://cottinghamnews.co.uk/bells).

## Tick Tock!

We know that many villagers would be thrilled to see a working clock in the church tower again. This project is being looked at but please be patient, it will depend on funding and finding a contractor to undertake this work. Even with all those things in place, the wheels do grind very slowly as there are many rules and processes to go through before a project like this on a listed church building can begin. We'll keep you posted.

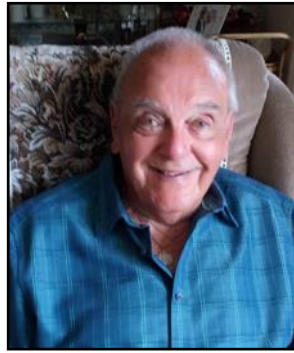




## In Memory...

### Don Licquorish, 1937–2023

Don Licquorish passed away peacefully at home on Boxing Day, with his family around him.



Don was born on 14 September 1937 in Chamberlain's Yard off Church Street, Cottingham. His father Thomas Albert was the eighth of 10 children born to Charles William Licquorish, who was himself the 11th of 12 children, shown on the 1881 Census living at Brickfield Cottages at the top end of Rockingham Road. Charles was part of the workforce that built the Harringworth viaduct.

In 1962, Don married Pat, who coincidentally was born in the very same Brickfield Cottages in 1943! The couple moved into a bungalow on Water Lane that Don built himself after they'd purchased the land for around £800 and, after a few years, added to their number with a son Antony and daughter Karen. In 2015, when the garden in Water Lane became too much, they moved to Stonepit Drive.

Don worked in the Corby Steel Works from around age 15 until its closure in 1980, after which he became a machine operator until his retirement in 2001. Pat and Don recently celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and were one of the last couples to receive a card of congratulations from the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Don was a member of one of the oldest families with Cottingham connections and the Methodist Chapel used to have a Christening bowl dedicated to the Licquorish (sic) family.

### Mabel Wratten, 1920–2023

In our last newsletter, we reported the passing of ex-Cottingham resident Jim Wratten. We sadly now have to let you know of the passing of his wife, Mabel, in early December.

Like Jim, Mabel moved to the area from London to work for Celebration Arts, where she was a Customer Services Manager. She and Jim lived in Bury Close before moving to Brigstock and, while living in the village, regularly attended St Mary Magdalene Church and supported various village charities and events.



Mabel reached the amazing age of 103 and put the secret of her long life to lots of gin, whisky, butter, salt and anything else naughty! She loved a party and, for her 99th birthday, this amazing lady took a number of laps of Rockingham Speedway at over 100mph in a Nissan GTR – and loved every minute!

Mabel had two daughters from her first marriage, one being Jan who lives in Middleton with husband Del.

## FroGS branch out!

Cottingham FROGS (Friends of Green Spaces) is about to take delivery of 315 free saplings from the Woodland Trust. They'll be organising some community planting events soon, primarily in The Dale. More information to come.

## Corby West SUE

The developers of the Corby West SUE (Sustainable Urban Extension) recently consulted on the first phase of construction. Located on land by the water towers off the A6003, development is due to start in late 2026. Villagers have raised concerns about traffic using the villages as a rat run to avoid jams on the A427, construction traffic causing congestion on the surrounding roads, and school and healthcare provision. You can see the parish council submissions to the consultation on their websites, and more about the development at [westcorby.com](http://westcorby.com).

## School minibus appeal

Cottingham Primary School is looking for business sponsorship to fund the purchase of a minibus. They're seeking donations of between £1,000 and £5,000 and are looking to raise £22,500 in total. Contact school head teacher **Ashley Scott** on **01536 771391**, or email him on [head@cottingham.pdet.org.uk](mailto:head@cottingham.pdet.org.uk).

## Christmas giving

Thanks to everyone who came and took part in the Journey to the Stable on Christmas Eve. There was a great turnout and as always it was a lovely way to start Christmas. The event raised £172.64 for Corby Food Bank.

## Peasdale Hill appeal dismissed

The Planning Inspector has dismissed the appeal for change of use of land at **Peasdale Hill Field** for residential purposes and development, including any temporary approval.

The Inspector considered that the significant adverse impacts to landscape character, appearance, archaeology and highways safety outweighed North Northants Council's (NNC's) lack of a 5-year supply for gypsy and traveller sites and the personal circumstances of the applicant's families and children. With part of the site lying on the route of the 'Gartree Way' Roman Road, she also gave considerable weight to the fact that the intentional unauthorised development (IUD) of the site, including removal of topsoil and construction of hardstanding, had caused irreversible damage to archaeological assets.

There's no doubt that the submissions made by our village action group **Middleton RAG** were extremely important and influential in her determination of the appeal. Massive thanks to everyone involved in RAG who have, and continue to, work so hard to protect our local environment.

Due to a legal technicality, NNC now need to issue a new enforcement for removal of the caravans from Peasdale Hill and restoration of the land. RAG will continue to put pressure on NNC for this, and also for enforcement of planning conditions on the Oakley Park sites, where the substantial groundworks and the number of static caravans would seem to fall well outside the scope of the current approval. For more information, contact RAG on [middletonrag@gmail.com](mailto:middletonrag@gmail.com).

## Mill update from the Board of Trustees

Having completed the Phase 1 works needed to satisfy Highways requirements for sight lines at the car park entrance last Autumn, we are now progressing with Phase 2, which involves signing off materials for the entrance splay, pavements, speed signage and car park gateway. We're intending to complete this in Spring 2024.

After that, we'll be able to assess costs and funding for the final stage, Phase 3, which will be construction of the car park itself. This will provide parking for at least 35 cars with overspill for more, radically improving access to the Village Hall Annex and alleviating pressure on the school drop off and collection bottleneck. We're aiming to complete this by the end of the year.

While the Mill Trust has a cash reserve to tackle much of this work, we can't emphasise enough our continued need to raise more to finish the car park, carry out essential work on the Village Hall Annex and look ahead to the development of a new facility. There's a calendar of events below. Please support as many of these as possible. Thank you.



## The Mill Community Hub Events Calendar



12 February, 6pm, AGM, Village Hall Annex

Sat 23 March, 7pm

### Wine tasting, Village Hall Annex

It's all aboard for the next village wine tasting which takes us on the routes of the Orient Express. All profits go to the Mill Community Hub Project. Tickets are £25 each for six wines and nibbles on a first come first served basis. Contact **Jan Robertson** on 07770 372345, email [janathome246@gmail.com](mailto:janathome246@gmail.com).

27 April – Attic sale

18 May – Pudding night

22 June – Summer disco

13 July – Village Summer Fete

6/7 Sep – Mini beer and music festival

26 Oct – Family Halloween party

30 Nov – Christmas Fayre

For event details and timings visit [themillhub.co.uk](http://themillhub.co.uk)

## Have your say on the future of the Village Hall Annex

The Mill Community Hub Trustees would like to invite villagers aged 18+ to take part in focus group



sessions to discuss what you'd like from the village Hall Annex. Your contribution will help shape the future of our community facility and will be greatly appreciated. The sessions will take place in mid-February. If you're interested, please email **Jo Beattie** on email [jo.beattie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jo.beattie@hotmail.co.uk) or message her on 07584 070598.

Fri 29 March, 10.30am–12 noon

### Good Friday coffee morning, ECCC

Come along to East Carlton Cricket Club for Easter cakes, crafts and goodies. All proceeds from the event will go to the Church of St Peter, East Carlton.



### Easter Church services

24 March, 10.30am, Cottingham Palm Sunday

28 March, 7pm, Wilbarston

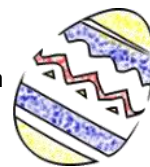
Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion with stripping the altar and foot washing

Easter Day, 31 March (clocks go forward!)

7.30am, Weston by Welland

10.30am, Ashley

The popular Hymns and Coffee Service will also be back in Cottingham Church. These services will take place at 10.30am on the first Sunday of each month, starting on 7 April.



## Useful Contacts

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

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

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

Clr 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)

## Clubs and Groups

Valley Voice, village choir  
Pete Smith, 07971 989081  
[valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com](mailto: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

