



Cottingham and Middleton News

Spring 2024

Available online at cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of Cottingham and Middleton News.

It's great to see our village pub back open and you can find contact details for **The Royal George** on page 3.

There are events taking place at the Church, in the School Hall and at the Village Hall Annex over the coming months. The Safari Bar at the vO Polo Club in Middleton will also be back open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 May. More information at thesafaribar.co.uk.

With lambs frolicking in the fields and colourful bulbs sprouting on the Corby Road bank, thanks to Cottingham FroGS (see page 3), Spring is definitely on the horizon. Here's looking forward to the weather improving and to seeing you all out and about in the villages very soon!

Regards,

Jane Smith Editor
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Next issue
June 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)

Valley Voice

Valley Voice, our local community choir, is going strong. There are now around 30 members, mainly from Cottingham, Middleton, Great Easton and Medbourne.

The choir has a busy calendar lined up for 2024. They'll be singing at a wedding blessing in April, a christening in May and at the North Northants Music Festival in June. After successful Christmas performances last year, they've also been asked back to sing in Rothwell town square and at Rural Relaxing in Medbourne (pictured above), dates to be arranged.

New members are always welcome. You don't need to be able to read music, just to enjoy singing with other people. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings during term time in Cottingham School hall. Contact valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com to find out more.



From...The Village Store & Café

The 2024 Annual General Meeting for shareholders of Cottingham and Middleton Village Shop and Café Ltd takes place on Tuesday 16 April at 6pm at the Village Hall Annex. We need to be quorate to continue with the meeting so we urge as many shareholders as possible to attend. If you can't attend, please complete your voting paper and email it to **Audrey Teodorini**, Committee Secretary, at audreyteodorini@msn.com or take it into the shop by 15 April.

We still have space for new members who want to join the Shop Management Committee; please contact the Secretary with any expressions of interest. The Committee meets approximately every six weeks to discuss diverse 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 our shareholders, but also aim to continually improve this valuable village resource.

We are continuing to raise the shop's social media profile with the aim of promoting products and generating interest in and further support for the shop. The shop is currently trialling a wider range of popular wines at fair prices and, if successful, this will be continued.

Please keep up with us on the shop website cottinghamshop.wordpress.com and [Facebook page](https://facebook.com/cottinghamshop), and don't forget to use the comment, like and share buttons on Facebook as we continue to develop our pages.

Finally, a big thank you to our customers who supported the shop's Easter Raffle, which raised £258. This will be used to replace the seating and tables outside the shop.

Tastes of the Orient Express

The latest wine tasting in support of The Mill Community Hub Project on 23 March was the most successful tasting yet, with profits totalling an amazing £1,000.80. With fun and informative guidance from our resident wine specialist Brian, guests explored seven wines from countries visited on the original routes of the Orient Express including France, Austria, Hungary and Greece.

These fundraisers continue to be a major contributor to project funds, having now raised more than £6,000 since they began in November 2021. Dates are posted on The Mill website at themillhub.co.uk. 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 Faulkner
07584 212067,
6 Church Street, Cottingham
LE16 8XG, email
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 1 May, 7pm
Wed 5 June, 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

Parish Councillors

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

Next meetings

Tue 14 May, 6.30pm
Tue 11 June, 6.30pm

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.

Water way to go!

By Sian Coughlan, Chair, Middleton Parish Council

Well, what a few months we've had – rain, rain and more rain, and I for one would love to kick off my muddy boots!

Climate change is undoubtedly playing a major part in the increased rainfall we're now experiencing in the East Midlands, and many of you will recall the catastrophic flooding incident at the junction of Main Street, The Hill and Ashley Road, Middleton, just before Christmas 2020.

Without so many residents coming out to help with brooms, straw bales, sandbags and anything else they could find to stop the water, there's no doubt that Woolpack House on the corner of Main Street would have flooded, along with other houses affected down Ashley Road.

Spurred on by this, Middleton Parish Council successfully applied to North Northants Council (NNC) for a grant of over £3,000 to purchase flood defence barriers so that, if this type of flooding ever happened again, we'd be much better equipped to cope with it.

And unfortunately it did happen again! In January and February this year we had two major flooding incidents in the same spot in the village. But with our new barriers quickly deployed, we managed to divert the water and stop another flooding calamity.

Thanks to everyone who helped set up the barriers, and a special thank you to Marie and Dennis Woodruff for the wonderful sloe gin!

Middleton Parish Council is liaising with NNC regarding these incidents and how we can prevent flooding in the future. Let's hope we don't have to use the barriers again any time soon!



Mill update from the Board of Trustees

The Mill Community Hub Project kicked off this year's action packed events calendar with its first ever race night. The event raised over £300 which will go into the pot for works on the new car park and much needed renovations to the Village Hall Annex.



March saw the first of four wine tastings for this year and was again a sold out event. We'd like to offer a huge thank you to our dedicated friends who put on these fantastic events.

Over the coming weeks you'll notice some improvements at the Annex and we hope you are as excited as we are to see them.

Pop Up @ The Mill, Friday 3 and 24 May, 5–10pm

On Friday 3 May, we launch our pop up bar. Doors open at 5pm and there will be family football games out on the field and hot dogs for sale during the evening. At our first pop up, we will again be asking for your opinion. Fill in the survey in exchange for a free drink at the event (one survey/drink per over 18). On 24 May, we also have live music from local band The Grand Avenues.



Instagram and Insight



We've launched our Instagram page. Follow us at [themillcommunityhub](https://www.instagram.com/themillcommunityhub) to find out about the amazing events coming up.

The second of three stages of the insight project are now complete and we have received the report back from our independent researcher. We again wanted to thank all of you for your time and contributions to this stage of the research. Once the final piece of the research has been completed, we will share the results with you all. Thank you.

FroGS leap into action by George West-Robinson

It's a real Leap Year for the Cottingham FroGS (Friends of Green Spaces)! Here's a quick round up of what this busy group has been up to.

Bide Awhile. This project will provide a planted seating area where the footpaths linking the Church, the Dale and the Jurassic Way meet, located alongside the footpath from the Church, just before the kissing gate into the Dale. This is great use of a space that's notorious for being overgrown with brambles, but is actually rich in bulbs, shrubs and trees, some of which are memorial trees.

The project is being fully funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Rockingham Forest Vision charity, We did need to bring vehicles in from the top gate through the Dale in very wet conditions to get this work done, but the temporary vehicle track impact to the ground surface in the Dale is already recovering well.

Tree planting in the Dale. The community tree planting event on 16 March was a great event to be part of. Around 45 folk of all ages showed up and 260 trees were planted in just 45 minutes! It was a lovely dry morning and we'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to all who took part. Watching you all walk up the Dale clutching spades (and several children) made me feel like I was in a Thomas Hardy novel! The fencing has also now been completed, protecting the planted area from the cattle that are back in the Dale from 1 April.



Steep bank on Corby Road. All the weeding, clearing and planting that's taken place over the last 18 months is starting to pay off. Many people have remarked on the current colourful display – and when the daffs fade, there's still plenty to come.

It's difficult and quite risky working on this very steep slope, so we're applying for funding from North Northants Council's rural community capital funding scheme to install a terraced sleeper path across the middle of the bank. If successful, this will be done sympathetically to the space and will also, of itself, provide a structure for creative planting.

Other FroGS activity includes working with several children on the school's allotment and garden, and tending the lavender and bulbs planted last year around the seat on Corby Road. Last year, we also planted over 100 bulbs around the tree in the green triangle opposite the school.

We are also about to start preparing a nature recovery plan in conjunction with Rockingham Forest Vision, who will be running an information and willow craft stall at the village fete on 13 July.

Do pop up and have a look at the work we've been doing in and around the Dale. And if you'd like to join FroGS, or go on our mailing list to receive updates, please contact **George West-Robinson** on **07891 159155**, email grwrconsultingltd@gmail.com.

In Memory...

Colin John Reed, 1943–2024

Sadly, on 27 February, Colin Reed who ran the Royal George pub in Cottingham for over 27 years, passed away, aged 82.

Pictured here behind the bar at The George with his wife Wendy, Colin had a cremation in Kettering that was very well attended, followed by a celebration of his life at the Royal George.

The family would like to express their thanks to all who attended.



Clock restoration fund

Thanks to everyone who came along to the downsizing sale organised by Mary Knott at the Village Store in March.

Together with donations from villagers, the event raised £553 for the Cottingham Church clock restoration fund.

The money raised will initially be used to pay for a specialist to come out and see what needs doing to get the clock going again.

Cottingham School



Cottingham CofE Primary School took part in Children's Mental Health Awareness Week in February during which, together with a very generous donation from one of the parents, the children raised £1005.40 for the Air Ambulance.

The school is also delighted to have received a North Northants Healthy Schools Bronze Award, recognising the school's ongoing commitment to encouraging healthy eating, physical activity, community engagement and other initiatives to support mental health and wellbeing.

The Royal George



The Royal George pub is back open for business, with chef **Tomas Brito** at the helm. You can book online through their website at theroyalgeorgecottingham.co.uk, email them at royalgeorge.tom@gmail.com or message them through their new [Facebook page](#) (search for 'Royal George Cottingham' and look for a page with the above photo). You can also call them on **01536 660505**, but the pub is still having a few issues with their phone line, so please keep trying if you can't get through straight away.

What's On

For latest events, see
cottinghamnews.co.uk

Cottingham's Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday
17th April 2024
7:00 to 9:00 pm
Village Hall Annex
Berryfield Road



All Cottingham residents welcome

Sat 27 April, 11am–2pm

Vintage Sale, Village Hall Annex



Sale of crafts, preloved household items and quality clothing in aid of The Mill Community Hub Project. There will be refreshments available.

If you have any quality saleable clothing, household goods or anything else you'd like to donate, please contact **Joanne Leaning** on **07776 261647**, email joanne.leaning@btinternet.com.

The Show Must Go On

An evening of comedy and music

Saturday 11th May 2024
7:00pm to 9:00pm

Cottingham School Hall
Berry Field Rd, Cottingham, LE16 8XY

Tickets:

£7 Adults. £3 children under 12

Available from: George

Tel: 07891 159155 or

Email: grwrconsultingltd@gmail.com

The Mill Bar will open

6:00pm – 7:00pm; 9:00pm – 10:00 pm

and during the interval

Your antidote to Eurovision!

Sun 30 June, 3.30pm

24 Carat Jazz, St Mary Magdalene

24 Carat Jazz will be performing a one hour Sunday afternoon concert at St Mary Magdalene Church.



Featuring Jane Smith on vocals and tenor sax, John Deane on piano and Kevin Griffiths on double bass, this popular trio plays jazz and swing favourites from the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Frank Sinatra, to name but a few.

Tickets are £10 including a glass of fizz and canapés, available from **Jo** on **07776 261647**, email joanne.leaning@btinternet.com.

All profits will go to the Cottingham Church Clock Restoration Fund.

Fizz and canapés will be served from 3.30pm and the music will start at 4pm. The perfect way to spend a laid back Sunday afternoon!

The Mill Community Hub Events Calendar



3 & 24 May, Pop Up @ The Mill (see page 2)

1 June, Premium Wine Tasting

Tasting of premium English wines and fizz with an individual plate of English cheeses and produce. Tickets £40 from janathome246@gmail.com.

22 June, Summer disco

13 July, 12– 4pm, Village Summer Fete

Sat 31 August, 7.30pm

Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra, Summer Concert, St Mary Magdalene Church



This nationally acclaimed orchestra features seven different types of saxophone playing a range of music to suit all tastes. Tickets are £12 including a glass of Pimms and nibbles. Contact **Angela** on **07594 682671**, email cottinghamchurch@gmail.com. All profits will be shared between the Church and the orchestra. More info and showreel at phoenixsax.org.uk.

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**, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/leighmcgivern2),
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
Pete Smith, **07971 989081**
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

