



Cottingham and Middleton News

December 2024

Available online at cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the final village newsletter for 2024.

August this year marked 20 years

since I started writing Cottingham and Middleton News, having taken up the reins from Sue Beadsworth. We've seen some changes since then, but what hasn't changed is the fantastic community spirit we have in these villages. Thanks to everyone who continues to volunteer, fundraise for and support our communities – our shop volunteers, parish councillors and all the people who help deliver the newsletter to your door, to name but a few.

I'd like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas. See you in the New Year!

Editor, Jane Smith

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Next issue
Jan/Feb 2025



Our villages have a brand new WhatsApp Community, bringing many of the different village WhatsApp groups together, all in one place! You can now choose from a range of groups, depending what you want to hear about. There are groups for general News and Chat, Neighbourhood Watch, a Marketplace and Village What's On. For more information including how to join, visit cottinghamnews.co.uk/whatsapp.

Silver award for Cottingham School

Our village school has become the first in North Northants to gain the Healthy Schools Silver Award! After completing their Bronze Award in February, Cottingham CofE Primary School swiftly achieved Silver by completing a self-led mental health project focused on their Year 5 children, who moved to Year 6 at the start of the school year in September.



The focus was on the five ways to wellbeing – giving, connecting, being active, taking notice and learning, with sessions around the five themes. This included a food bank donation (giving), a family afternoon (connecting) and a yoga session (being active).

School Bursar Carolynn Southcome said: "Year 6 can be stressful and worrying for children due to their SATS and the imminent move up to secondary school, potentially away from their friends. Because of this, we mainly wanted to support these pupils with their mental health and wellbeing and prepare them for these significant events and changes."

Jason Smithers, Leader of North Northants Council, said: "Our youngest residents are the future of North Northamptonshire. I want to congratulate all those involved at Cottingham CofE Primary, pupils and staff. Well done on your Silver Healthy Schools Award, and all the best in your progress towards Gold."



Royal George back on track

The Royal George reopens on 29 November under a new management team. **John McElwain** (pictured left), who villagers will have seen behind the bar at the pub in recent months, has taken over as Landlord and is joined by a new chef, **Anthony Fisher**. Corby born and bred, Anthony is Michelin trained and has worked at Rushton Hall, at Hambleton Hall under Aaron Patterson and at the Auberge du Lac in Hertfordshire.

The George is looking to focus on pub classics, done well, alongside a specials board with creative à la carte dishes They'll be serving bar snacks and a pensioners' lunchtime menu and there are also tapas evenings, live music, quiz and theme nights in the pipeline. John, whose grandfather Neil has lived in Cottingham for 47 years, says he wants to see the business thrive. "I want to bring the Royal George back to Cottingham and bring it back to life, with a proper community vibe," says John.

To contact John and the team, please email them on cottinghamroyalgeorge@gmail.com, message them on [Facebook](#) or call them on **01536 660505**. And for the latest information and menus, keep an eye on the pub's website theroyalgeorgecottingham.co.uk, or follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram @cottinghamroyalgeorge](#).



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 or submit it online at sidsfruitandveg.co.uk up until **19 December**. Delivery and collection will be on **Monday 23 December**, when the van will be at Cottingham shop from 9.30–11am and at Rockingham Forest Wheelers from 11.15am–12.30pm. 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

Parish Councillors

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

Next meetings, village hall

Wed 11 December, 7pm
Wed 8 January, 7pm

cottingham-pc.gov.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
Katy Bowyer
Teresa Denton
2 vacancies

Next meetings, village hall

No December meeting
Tue 15 January, 6.30pm

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

Get up and Go!

New 'Get up and Go' exercise classes are taking place on Thursday mornings (10.30am) at the village hall.

Aimed at older people, the classes are designed to improve balance, co-ordination and confidence, which in turn helps to prevent falls and maintain health and independence.

Each session costs £6 including tea and coffee. To book, contact shaunsinclair68@yahoo.co.uk, telephone **07545 955666**.

From...The Village Store & Café

The shop committee would like to thank Cottingham & Middleton Copyholders for their very generous donation of £1,000, which will go towards the shop's increasing running costs and maintaining equipment.

To raise further funds for the shop, the committee is organising a Christmas raffle. Thank you to the customers who have generously donated prizes. Tickets cost £1 and will be on sale at the shop, where the raffle prizes will be on display, from 1 December. Please show your support by buying tickets. Winners will be notified on 22 December.

In the lead up to Christmas, the shop is stocking a lovely selection of **Grandma Wild's** festive cookies, biscuits and loaf cakes, that can be enjoyed with family and friends or given as a gift. This family-owned business uses only the finest ingredients and traditional baking methods.

Christmas orders for Joseph Morris whole turkeys, turkey breast joints, sausage meat and pigs in blankets can be placed at the shop. The staff will have details of the full range of Joseph Morris Christmas produce available to order.

This holiday season, we look back over the last year and the challenges we have faced and we would like to thank our staff, volunteers and all our customers who have supported the shop. We wish you a very happy Christmas and all that is merry and bright for the New Year ahead.



Xmas and New Year

25 & 26 Dec: CLOSED

1 Jan: CLOSED

All other days, open as normal



Church clock repairs

We're delighted to confirm that we've received more than £1,000 in generous donations to the clock restoration fund since the last newsletter, which brings our total to **£7,384**. With further funds expected before the end of the year, from the Christmas Crafts at the

Shop and the Christmas Ghost Stories, we're confident that we'll be able to commission the repairs and enhancements to the clock early in the New Year. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported this campaign so far. For more information, see cottinghamnews.co.uk/church-clock.

Mill update from the Board of Trustees

We've had a busy couple of months at our village hall. We've hosted our last few pop-up bars of the year, which we hope you've all enjoyed. These have been well attended and have offered a great chance to catch up with friends, family, and maybe meet some new people, whilst also supporting the village hall.

The quiz night run by Ant Licquorish attracted 11 teams and raised £633 for the village hall, with the Christmas wine tasting raising £1,239. The Halloween party made over £1,200, to be shared evenly between the village hall and the school.

Thanks to everyone who has supported our events this year, whether as a volunteer or simply by coming along. You've all made a massive difference to the next steps in our journey.

We're excited to let you know that the 'paperwork' for the new car park is now all signed off and contractors are now costing up the specifications for this important work to begin. We've also been working with an architect to draw up plans for a revamp of the village hall, based on the insights you've shared with us. You can view these plans in the café area of the village shop from 30 November to 22 December, or online at themillhub.org.uk. It will of course take time and money to make these changes, but to get the ball rolling, we've already consulted with contractors to start pricing things up.

Thank you all for your continued support. Contact us at mail@themillhub.org.uk,



Village churchyard spruce up begins

St Mary Magdalene Church, working together with Cottingham FROGS (Friends of Green Spaces), has secured £450 of funding from Rockingham Forest Vision, on behalf of the North Northants Rural Community Fund, to start clearing the churchyard.



The work aims to ensure that access to the top of the churchyard is improved for burials and general visitors, and to clear a three metre strip within the fence surrounding the old part of the graveyard.

Substantial areas have now been cleared by SKM Contractors (Steve Morphy), revealing gravestones buried by brambles and coarse grass that haven't been seen for at least a decade! Several important tombs have been released from the undergrowth for visitor access and much of the tall, coarse grass has been strimmed, hopefully giving finer, more attractive flora and wildlife a chance to flourish.

You can see photos and a full report on the clearance project on the village website at cottinghamnews.co.uk/churchyard.

Cottingham youngster wins karting championship



William Horton of Ganders Farm on Rockingham Road has been named Intermax Champion in the IPKC (Independent Privateers Kart Championship). IPKC excludes teams and allows privateers with lower budgets to shine through. William, age 12, took up karting two years ago and this year moved into the Intermax class, running faster Rotax max karts for 10-13 year olds.

Next year, he plans to compete against the big teams and grids in some of the local club championships. William is grateful for his sponsor Bespoke Unit, but is always looking to partner with anyone willing to help him on his journey. You can follow William on Instagram [@w.horton24](https://www.instagram.com/w.horton24).

Ashley Road planning update from Middleton Residents Action Group

North Northants Council issued Oakley Park with enforcement notices on 13 September 2024, requiring the removal of all static caravans and restoration of the whole site. We understand the site owners have submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspector against these notices, so an appeal hearing will follow.

Due to the complexities and legalities involved, we will need professional advice and representation along the lines of the Peasdale Hill appeal to prepare our submission for this hearing. This is important, as planning inspectors do give a high level of consideration to community views. We also know that our professional submission for Peasdale made a significant contribution to, and impact on, the Inspector's findings and decision.

We currently have sufficient reserves to gain professional support to prepare our appeal submission, but not enough to cover preparations for, and representation at, the hearing itself. We therefore need to raise additional funds and we will be issuing a fundraising appeal to local residents in due course. In the meantime, we would welcome any early donations to support RAG's costs. Our bank details are Sort Code: 53 81 46, Account Number 87240084.

As always, we are really grateful for your support and contributions. We remain open to any questions you might have and would also welcome anyone interested in getting involved with RAG. For more information, see cottinghamnews.co.uk/ashley-road-planning.

Goatcycling!



Ganders Farm will again be goatcycling Christmas trees after the festive period. As last year, there will be a small charge per tree that will go back into buying new trees to plant in the valley. You can book your tree collection online at gandersgoat.com from 1 December.

Festive wine tasting

Saturday 23 November saw another sell-out evening, this time with a festive theme. Regular host and expert Brian Redshaw and team presented a welcome cocktail and a selection of wines, followed by port and a liqueur, all accompanied by festive nibbles.

Thanks to all helpers and contributors including M&S Food Hall, Morrisons, Majestic Wine, Rockingham Castle, Savoy Cinema, Meat Link UK, and all others that contributed some amazing raffle prizes. And an even bigger thanks to everyone's generosity as the evening raised an amazing £1,239 toward The Mill Community Hub charity, which is currently focused on improving the village hall.

The next event is the rescheduled **Routes du Rhone** wine tasting on **8 February** with French cheeses, tickets £25. Please contact janathome246@gmail.com for tickets, or to go on the email list to receive info on future events.

New PCSO, Ali Wallace



Welcome to our new PCSO, **Ali Wallace** (PCSO 7074). Ali covers Corby Rural and Industrial and has been a

PCSO with Northants Police for over 18 years. She started out covering Corby town centre and the Exeter estate. Since then, she has covered Oundle and Wellingborough before returning here to Corby. You can contact Ali on email NeighbourhoodTeam@northants.police.uk

What's On

For latest events, see
cottinghamnews.co.uk

Christmas Crafts at the shop

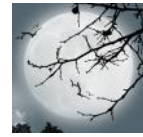
Friday 29th Nov
Saturday 30th Nov
Sunday 1st Dec
09:00 to closing
Upstairs at The Village
Store and Café,
Cottingham

£££ Cash only £££
Proceeds to The Shop &
Church Clock



Sat 14 & Sun 15 December

Ghost Stories for Christmas St Mary Magdalene Church



Three new spooky stories, written by Pete Bowman and narrated by George West-Robinson. Sun 15th is sold out, but there are still a few tickets left for Saturday 14th (6.30pm). Tickets are £10 each from Angela on 07594 682671 or email cottinghamchurch@gmail.com. All profits will go to the clock restoration fund.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday 17th December 2024 7:00pm
GREAT EASTON VILLAGE HALL

featuring

Valley Voice: Welland Valley Community Choir

with invited guest artists

performing a selection of Christmas and seasonal songs and tunes

There will be a raffle. Feel free to bring your own drinks.

Tickets: £10 including a mince pie and mulled wine or a soft drink

For tickets contact

Pete on 07971 989081 or Lesley on 07707 751207

Or email valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com

Please note that there will be no card or contactless payment facilities on the night so strictly cash only



As well as the above Christmas concert, and the Carol Service on 22 Dec, on the morning of 7 Dec, Valley Voice will be singing at Rural Relaxing in Medbourne and at Great Easton Christmas Fayre. On **Fri 20 Dec**, they'll be out carolling at East Carlton Cricket Club (7pm), The Sun at Great Easton (8pm) and at the **Royal George, Cottingham** at 9pm, to raise money for charity.

In the New Year, the choir will be getting their teeth into new music and are planning to take part in the North Northants Music Festival in June. New members are 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 at Cottingham school hall. Please contact valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com.



St Mary Magdalene Church

Sunday 22 December, 4 pm

CAROL SERVICE

All Welcome with Cottingham & Middleton Bell Ringers

Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and



ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH AND FRIENDS PRESENT

Christmas Eve Nativity Walk



We start at 4pm, next to Middleton Pocket Park, then walk up through the villages and finish at the church, where there'll be a collection for Corby Food Bank. Please wrap up warm and bring your lanterns and singing voices. All children are welcome to dress up and play angels and shepherds. We look forward to seeing you!



Christmas Church services

24 Dec, 11pm, East Carlton
Midnight Mass

25 Dec, 10am
Stoke Albany
Church

Christmas Day
Communion Service



Useful Contacts

Northants Police 101
www.northants.police.uk
PCSO 7074, Ali Wallace
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, Leigh McGivern, 07794 703206, Facebook, 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 Walking Group
Pam Grayson, 772565

Save the date!

Saturday 5 July
Village Summer Fete



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

