



Cottingham and Middleton News

April 2025

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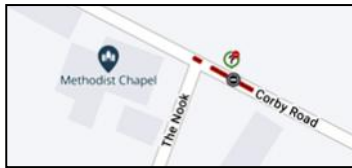


Welcome to the April/May village newsletter. It's lovely to see the weather turning and hopefully you'll soon have a chance to get out and about in our beautiful villages to enjoy the countryside that surrounds us.

The Dale

Cottingham Parish Council has advised that there'll be no cattle grazing in The Dale this year. The Parish Council will keep assessing the area and the grass maintenance while allowing nature to thrive. Any questions or comments please email clerkcottinghampc@gmail.com

Corby Road closure



A short stretch of Corby Road opposite The Nook will be closed from 14 April to 9 May to allow for repairs to a retaining wall adjacent to the highway. You can find more information online at one.network

Cottingham history

The in-development village history website has new pages for the Methodist band/Cottingham Feast, the village Copyholders and Cottingham FC. Visit janemith.co.uk

Jane Smith, Editor

3 Corby Road, 07800 523077
jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk

Next issue
June 2025

FroGS get ready for 2025

Organised by Rockingham Forest Vision, Diana Sharvill from Cottingham FroGS (Friends of Green Spaces) recently led a fascinating walk around the village to highlight the fantastic work that FroGS has been doing.

Diana also took the opportunity to point out some interesting geological features, including shells and fossils in the building stones that show that the village would once have been under the sea! She also explained that the rocks beneath us were laid down during the Jurassic period, around 150-170 million years ago. "The Jurassic rocks extend from the Dorset coast up to the Yorkshire coast, which is why our long distance footpath is called the Jurassic Way," says Diana, "and when these rocks were laid down, this area was much further south, roughly where Morocco is now, and was a subtropical region with shallow seas."

Maintaining and finishing

This year, FroGS will be focusing on finishing, maintaining and modest enhancement of their existing projects. This includes the Bide-Awhile area and community orchard at the entrance to The Dale, planting on the Corby Road bank, daffodils and tulips on the triangle near the school, the 'lavender bench' at the Corby Road/Blind Lane junction and the mini garden next to the substation on the Stonepit Drive link path. You can find a full update on all FroGS projects at cottinghamnews.co.uk/FroGS.

Competition time!

FroGS are inviting everyone in Cottingham, of all ages, to take part in a competition to be judged later in the year. Categories will include tallest sunflower, best hanging basket, best wildflower patch and best planted pot. Details on how to enter, when judging will take place and so on will be available soon. But if you think you might have a go, this is the time to get planning your entries.

For more information, contact **George West-Robinson** on **07891 159155**, email grwrconsultingltd@gmail.com.



Village school is Going for Gold

Cottingham CofE Primary School recently enjoyed a visit from Helene Denness, Deputy Director of Public Health for North Northamptonshire (third left), Healthy Schools Advisor Mia Chapman (left) and Cllr Gill Mercer, Executive member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing (centre), to celebrate the school being the first in North Northamptonshire to achieve the Healthy Schools Silver Award. The school is now well on track for their Gold Award, so watch this space!



Valley Voice

The Welland Valley Voice Community Choir is looking forward to three performances this summer. They'll be singing in Rothwell's market square on 17 May, at the North Northants Music Festival on 7 June and at the Village Fete on 5 July.

The choir now has 36 members, a few new this year. If you're interested in joining the choir, which rehearses on Tuesday evenings, please contact valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com.



Parish Councils

Cottingham

Clerk: Rachel Faulkner
07584 212067,
4 Corby Road, Cottingham
LE16 8XH, email
clerkcottingham@gmail.com

Parish Councillors

Andy Mackie (Chair)
Graham Tweed
Jon Hinton
Owen Davison
Sue Morphy
Terri McLean-Bowman
Tom Russell

Next meetings, village hall

Wed 7 May, 7pm
Wed 4 June, 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

Tue 13 May, 6.30pm
Tue 10 June, 6.30pm

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

From... Cottingham Parish Council



We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks to Mike Curtis, David Grayson, and George West-Robinson, who have stepped down from the Parish Council after 11, 10 and 8 years of dedicated service, respectively.

Their contributions to our community have been invaluable and we will miss their insight and commitment. Mike, David and George have been instrumental in implementing some great things in Cottingham to make our village a pleasant and safer place to live and work, including the solar panel speed warning signs on all the roads into the village, the Neighborhood Plan, which is a huge planning document that protects the village from over-development for the next 10 years, and FroGS, the community group which is improving the village's green spaces for everyone to enjoy. We truly appreciate their passion for our village and willingness to serve their community. Thank you.

2025 Elections

The seven Parish Councillors listed on the left have all put themselves forward for election or to be co-opted onto Cottingham Parish Council this year. As this number is less than the number of seats on the Council (nine), councillors will automatically be elected on 1 May without the need for a ballot, even though Cottingham Parish Council appears on the polling cards that Cottingham residents have recently received through their doors.

From... The Village Store & Café



We are pleased to announce that we have appointed long term Cottingham resident **Elaine Sumpter** in a new role as the store's supervisor. We hope customers will give Elaine a warm welcome. We also want to say a massive thank you to Alison Jones for her years of service to the shop and to all those who helped support us over the eight weeks between Alison's departure and Elaine taking up her new role. We were able to trade every day due to the support of our hardworking volunteers.

We know how much the shop is valued by the community, both for essential groceries and social support. It enhances our villages and would be missed, but it is still only viable if it has more volunteer support. If you can help by working at the shop on an occasional basis or would like more information, please contact **Tracey Hinton** on email tracey19662010@hotmail.co.uk.



Our village WhatsApp Community has groups for News and Chat, What's On, Neighbourhood Watch and a Marketplace for buying, selling and gifting.

You can choose which groups you want to join, depending what you want to hear about. Find out more, including how to join, at cottinghamnews.co.uk/whatsapp.



Easter raffle

To raise further funds for the shop, the Committee has organised an Easter raffle. Many thanks to the customers who have donated raffle prizes, which are on display in the shop. Please support the shop by buying a raffle ticket. Winning ticket holders will be notified by phone on Wednesday 16 April.

2025 Shareholder AGM

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Cottingham and Middleton Village Shop and Café Ltd will be held on **Thursday 22 May** at 6pm at the Village Hall, Berryfield Road, Cottingham. We need to be quorate to continue with the meeting, so we urge as many shareholders as possible to attend the AGM or complete the voting paper that will be sent to shareholders three weeks before the meeting. Voting papers will also be available in the shop from 30 April until 21 May.

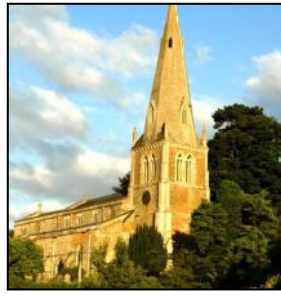
Easter opening times

Easter Sunday: Closed
Easter Monday: 9am–1pm
All other days open as normal, from 8am–1pm



Wheels in motion for clock repairs

We've now raised the money needed to get the church clock repaired, and many of you have been asking when the work is due to start. The wheels are literally in motion, as our contractor is now sourcing and manufacturing new parts, some of which need to undergo a period of testing before installation. It's really important to go through this testing phase to avoid any 'false starts', so please bear with us. We'll keep you posted on progress.



Royal George gets ready for summer

Our village pub is now serving dinner Tuesdays to Saturdays, and lunch Fridays to Sundays, with a full range of vegetarian and plant based options available. Their B&B rooms are also now fully up and running and they'll soon be going live on Airbnb and Booking.com.



There's a quiz night every other Tuesday and live music planned for the summer months. Keep an eye on their Facebook page [@cottinghamroyalgeorge](#) for latest events, and you can find menus and opening times on their website at [theroyalgeorgecottingham.co.uk](#). You can contact John and Janine at the pub by messaging their Facebook page, emailing cottinghamroyalgeorge@gmail.com or calling **01536 660505** or **07763 500002**.

Time for wine!

The February wine tasting event raised £816 for The Mill community projects, bringing the total raised to date by these events to £8,812. Thanks to everyone who attended, helped organise the event and contributed to the raffle, including Lidl, Aldi and the Falcon Hotel, Uppingham.



Village Wine Safari, Saturday 23 August

The popular wine safari is returning to the villages on 23 August. Revellers can expect to try five different wines curated by our resident wine expert Brian Redshaw, at five different venues, with nibbles along the way, ending with hot food, music, dancing, more wine and a bar at the final venue, which this year will be the village hall. Profits from the event will go to local community projects. To express your interest, please email **Ali Freestone** at alisonfreestone15@gmail.com or **Glyn Lowe** at g-low2@sky.com.

The next wine tasting event on 17 May is sold out, but there's another one scheduled for **Saturday 20 September**. The organisers are considering making this a gin tasting event instead and would be keen to hear your views on this. Please email Glyn to share your thoughts. Wine or gin? What a choice!

In memory, Bob Neill, 24 Feb 1934 – 15 Dec 2024

A much loved villager, Bob Neill, sadly passed away just before Christmas, aged 90. Bob was born in Birmingham, and at age 18 joined the Royal Navy to realise his ambition to fly a Seafire (a Spitfire with folding wings)! He then spent 40 years working in manufacturing in Birmingham, before moving the light engineering company he founded to Corby in 1993.



Bob and his wife Jill, a former Wren who Bob met during his five years in the Navy, moved to their home in Middleton Main Street in 1997. His lifelong love was flying, and he continued this passion as Chair of the Midland Gliding Club and the Fleet Air Arm Aviation Scholarship Trust. Bob was a genuine 'people person' and loved talking to everyone he met when walking around the villages and at the village Ramblers group. He lived a full and active life almost to the end, despite his poor health. He leaves his wife Jill, two sons, Hugh and Robbie, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Women's Institute



Our local Welland Valley WI has a packed calendar of events coming up this year.

This group of active, like-minded women meets on the first Wednesday of the month at Ashley Village Hall, and there are socials and trips out every month too. New members are always welcome. Find out more at cottinghamnews.co.uk/WI

Safari Bar re-opening

The Safari Bar at the vO Polo Club on Ashley Road, Middleton re-opens on 21 May.



On Wednesdays and Fridays, you can book for dinner, soak up the sun and watch chukkas (polo practice), and there's live jazz from 9pm on Fridays. They're also open for lunch on Sundays, with polo matches also taking place on 25 May, 15 June, 6 July and 10 August. More information at thesafaribar.co.uk

Cottingham Car Boot

Cottingham car boot is back open on Mill Road, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, sellers 10am and buyers 11am. call **07585 485043**.

Hair and Beauty



Laura Cottrell has recently moved to Cottingham and has opened a new salon, **Laura's Beauty Therapy** in the village, offering

a range of beauty treatments including nails, foot and eye treatments, waxing and massage. You can find her on Facebook [@thebeautycabin19](#), or contact her on 07841 905817, email thebeautycabin1@hotmail.com



And don't forget, you can also get your hair done in the village, at **The Hair Port** in Bury Close. Contact Gaynor on 07540

729863, email gaynorthehairport@yahoo.com, or visit her Facebook page [@thehairportcorby](#)



Happy Easter,
from The Boys!
xxx

What's On

For latest events, see
cottinghamnews.co.uk



Mary Freestone's Annual Coffee Morning

Fundraiser in aid of Cottingham Church

Saturday 12 April

10am - 12pm Village Hall Annex

Do join us for delicious refreshments,
homemade biscuits and great company. Cakes for sale,
nearly new clothing rail and a fabulous raffle.

£5 entry - a mug to keep

and as many refills as you would like
See you there!

Village Hall 'Glow Up', 12/13 April

If you can spare a few hours to help with litter picking, weeding, painting, outside cleaning or relaying slabs at our village hall, please pop along between 10am and 4pm on the above dates. Refreshments will be provided and the team will be working outside while Mary's coffee morning is taking place.

Easter Church Services

There'll be a festival family service and Holy Communion at St Mary Magdalene Church at **10.30am on Easter Sunday (20 April)**. For a full list of Easter services in the Welland Valley Benefice, see cottinghamnews.co.uk/church.



THE WELLAND VALLEY BENEFICE

Contact
Noel Rogers
on
07785 237025

WARM SPACE



DAY TRIP BY COACH, TO

COTTON MANOR

GARDEN

WEDS **APRIL 23RD**

LEAVING COTTINGHAM

BERRY FIELD ROAD

11AM RETURNING BY 4PM

£20.00, INC COACH & ENTRY



Sat 26 April 6.30pm

Charity Quiz, Pinky's Pastries

Tickets for Ant Licquorish's charity quiz are £15 each to include a buffet with tea and coffee. There's also a bar provided by a third party. Doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start. If you'd like to register a team, please contact ant_the_quizmaster@btinternet.com.



Sun 27 April 3 for 3.30pm

Alright JACK, St Mary Magdalene



The Alright JACK saxophone quartet is performing at St Mary Magdalene as part of the church's 'Sunday Sessions' concert series. All profits will go to the church.

Tickets are £10 to include a glass of fizz and canapés. Doors open at 3pm for fizz, canapes and live classical guitar from **Christian Harford**, before Alright JACK starts at 3.30pm.

Please get your tickets in advance from **Angela Preston-Jones** on **07594 682671**, email cottinghamchurch@gmail.com

The Mill Community Hub Events Calendar



- 3 May Ladies Who Brunch (2-7pm)
- 9 May Bingo (7-10.30pm)
- 17 May Italian wine tasting **SOLD OUT**
- 30 May Pop-up bar re-opens (6-11pm)
- 7 Jun Open mic night (6.30-11pm)
- 5 July Village Summer Fete (12-5pm)
- 23 Aug Wine Safari (ending at Village Hall)

The pop up bar at the village hall will be open on several Friday evenings over the summer. For pop-up dates, along with more information and booking details for all the above events, please visit themillhub.co.uk.

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, safecorby.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](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

Cottingham & Middleton VE Day 80 Beacon Lighting



VE DAY
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8 MAY 2025

Come and join us at the Top Field from 8.15pm
on Thursday 8 May 2025
(The same field where we lit the Platinum Jubilee & D-Day Beacons)

**For The VE-Day Tribute & Beacon Lighting
Taking place from 9.15pm**

Bells will ring from St Mary Magdalene Church on the day
in conjunction with Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils

**Saturday 21 June
The Show Must Go On!**
Back by popular demand! More
information coming soon.