



Cottingham and Middleton News

September 2025

Available online at cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the September 2025 issue of Cottingham and Middleton News.

It's great to see so much happening in the villages (see back page). Thanks to everyone who puts their time and effort into organising these events, which really help make our lovely villages such a fun and inclusive place to live.

If you'd like to keep up to date with village news between newsletters, you can join the village email list by following the instructions on the village website, at

cottinghamnews.co.uk/e-list.

You can also follow us on Facebook and join the village WhatsApp Community. Visit cottinghamnews.co.uk/whatsapp for contact details and to find out more.

Regards,

Jane Smith, Editor

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jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk



Next issue
November 2025

Cottingham School celebrates



Councillor Brian Benneyworth, executive member for health and leisure (pictured above left), said: "The school's dedication to health and wellbeing and raising awareness of the importance of connecting, giving and getting active is truly inspiring and sets a fantastic example for schools across the county."



Our village school is celebrating after becoming the first school in North Northants to receive a Healthy Schools Gold Award!

'Healthy Schools' is a national mental health project that rates schools on how well they are promoting wellbeing, healthy eating and physical activity among pupils.

The school is also celebrating their Higher-Level Teaching Assistant, Tom Stafford, reaching the finals for Teaching Assistant of the Year in the prestigious TES School Awards, which are dubbed the 'Oscars of education'.

Executive Headteacher Ashley Scott said: "Tom is a truly exceptional member of our school community. He has

become a constant and trusted figure for the children, offering the nurturing support they need. His impact on the school community has been nothing short of transformational and it is only right that he has been recognised for his efforts with this award nomination. He may not have walked home with the award, but he is the real winner in our eyes!"

And finally, congratulations to school 'super mum' Sam Alder, who raised £1,140 by running the London Marathon, to be shared between Cransley Hospice and Cottingham School. An amazing achievement, well done Sam!



All the Fun of the Fete

What a day we had on the 5th July! The sun was shining, albeit it was a tad windy, but it didn't stop everyone joining in and having a great day out.

We're thrilled to share that we exceeded all expectations, selling out at both the BBQ and the bar. We now know we definitely need to stock up more for 2026! Overall, the Fete raised £6,478 for the village hall, with an additional £650 from the cake stall going to church funds.

We'd like to thank everyone who came along and supported the event, all the organisers and also the musicians who helped make the event such a success,

Special thanks must go to George West-Robinson for rigging and derigging the massive marquee with his band of merry men, and organising the music throughout the day – it truly added to the atmosphere. Special thanks too to Steve and Sue Morphy for bringing their vintage tractors and prize winning Highland cows, and to Tracey and Jon Hinton for bringing Big Stan and Ernie – two very special sheep!

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
Sue Morphy
Terri McLean-Bowman
Tom Russell

Next meeting, Village Hall

Wed 1 October, 7pm
Wed 5 November, 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

Next meeting, Village Hall

Tue 9 September, 6.30pm
Tue 14 October, 6.30pm
www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

From... The Village Store & Café

Grow local, support local – stock your goods in our village store

Are you a local farmer, grower or artisan producer? Do you create high quality, fresh and unique goods that deserve a home in your local community? If the answer is 'yes', the Village Store and Café is the perfect place for your products to shine!

By stocking your produce with us, you'll not only reach loyal customers who value locally sourced goods, but you'll also help sustain the heartbeat of our village economy.

We welcome everything from fresh fruit and vegetables, honey, baked goods, preserves, and dairy to handcrafted soaps, candles and artisanal treats. Whether you have a surplus harvest, a small scale production, or a specialty item, join us in creating a sustainable, community-driven marketplace where local goods take centre stage.

If you're interested, please contact **Tracey Hinton** on email tracey19662010@hotmail.co.uk mobile **07546 888188**, or pop into the shop for a chat.



Owen Davison, 15 Feb 1946 – 18 June 2025

On Friday 4 July, villagers gathered at St Mary Magdalene Church to remember the life of Owen Davison, a much loved member of the community whose larger than life presence will be sadly missed.

A consultant neurologist at Kettering General Hospital, Owen moved to Woodhollow on Church Street in 1982. He served as a Cottingham Parish Councillor for many years, including as Chair, and as a trustee of The Mill Community Hub Project. He also supported the Village Shop and Owen and his wife Anne generously invited villagers to

Woodhollow for many a village Wine Safari and other celebrations, including the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. He was also a senior Freemason, supporting a number of charitable causes. He will be fondly remembered.

David Sturman, 26 March 1955 – 4 August 2025

We were also very sorry to hear that David Sturman sadly passed away on 4 August after a short illness. Dave spent the first three years of his life in Cottingham and later returned to the village with his wife Janet, where they have lived in their home on the corner of Blind Lane for around 37 years. Dave was a skilled welder, a former member of the Parachute Regiment (1982–1993), and a life long dog lover. Our thoughts are with Jan and their friends and family.



Sax recital hits all the right notes

Music lovers were treated to an afternoon of outstanding music as part of the 'Sunday Sessions' series of concerts at St Mary Magdalene Church, Cottingham, on 10 August.

Saxophonist Samuel Beddard and pianist Jo Foote presented *What Shapes A Soul?*, a varied programme of music that took the listener on a journey from American gospel and spiritual hymns to their roots in African folk music. This concert at Cottingham Church was part of a national tour by Samuel and Jo, that kicked off at Selby Abbey in North Yorkshire on 26 July.

The team at St Mary's are currently investigating options to get a toilet installed at the church, and the £165 raised at the concert, together with £40 of additional donations on the day, will go to fund this project. Installation of a toilet will be extremely helpful for church services, especially weddings and funerals, and will also massively increase the viability of the church as a community space for social gatherings, events and concerts. For the latest information from St Mary Magdalene, see cottinghamnews.co.uk/church.

Middleton flood resilience and drainage improvements

You may have noticed a lot of work being carried out by the North Northants Council (NNC) Highways team at the junction of Main Street, Ashley Road and The Hill in Middleton during August.

After more than two years lobbying NNC to fix the drainage issues that have caused many flooding episodes at this junction over the last few years, the hard work and efforts of Middleton Parish Council have finally paid off.

NNC initially commenced work earlier this year, surveying all the drains in the area to check for possible blockages, and improving the Jurassic Way footpath by fixing the drain and laying a semi permeable surface on the Jurassic Way path by The Hill.

Works have now been carried out to install several new gullies and drainage pipes at the bottom of The Hill. NNC has also installed new conservation area-approved kerb stones and bollards on the corner of the Ashley Road and Main Street junction. The bollards have been installed to improve protection for both pedestrians and the residents of Woolpack House on this corner.

It should be noted that the current road surface on this junction is temporary and NNC plans to resurface this area in September, adjusting the camber of the road where necessary to direct surface water when it rains heavily to the new drainage system, hopefully alleviating the flooding issues that have arisen in the past.

Thank you all for your patience when the traffic lights were in place, and here's hoping we don't have to use the flood barriers again any time soon!

Middleton Parish Council

Church clock update

From Cottingham Parochial Church Council (PCC)

We're delighted to let you know that the minor teething problems with the clock chiming mechanism have been fixed and the clock is now chiming consistently on the hour, even after bell ringing!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our survey on the church clock.

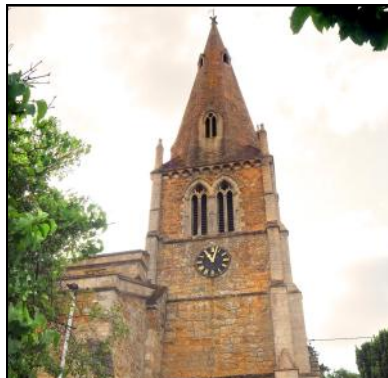
We received 168 valid responses, and we're pleased to say that the overwhelming majority (94%) say they enjoy and value the clock chiming – for the sense of community it instils, forming part of the soundscape of an English country village, evoking memories of simpler times and providing a link to the village's traditions and heritage. Villagers find the clock chimes calming, comforting, relaxing, reassuring, joyful, uplifting and grounding.

The majority of survey respondents – 86.9% overall and 73% of those living closest to the church (in Church Street, Water Lane and Corby Road) – wish to see the clock continue to chime from 7am to 11pm, or to be increased to 24 hours. However, a small number of respondents (13%) say they find the clock chimes disturbing, or feel that starting at 7am and ending at 11pm is excessive, especially for families with young children.

While this is very much a minority view, in the interests of being a good neighbour and out of empathy for those living closest to the church, the PCC has decided to reduce the clock chiming hours to 8am to 10pm until further notice. We appreciate this will not please everyone. However, we hope that all villagers will accept this compromise position, which has been reached after careful consideration by the PCC and with the genuine aim of being fair to all members of our community.

You can read the full survey report on the village website at cottinghamnews.co.uk/church-clock.

Please note that bell ringing practice is now taking place in Cottingham every other Monday evening from 7 to 8pm, alternating with Ashley Church, rather than Friday evenings. This is to make best use of our bell ringing tutors' time.



Wine Safari



August 23rd saw the return of the Wine Safari to Middleton and Cottingham, with around 85 people experiencing a great afternoon and evening, enjoying four local hosts' gardens and hospitality, various wines, greeting friends and making new ones.

Culminating at the Village Hall, the revellers enjoyed live music from local band 'Stoplight', dancing, food and the pop up bar.

Congratulations to James Wightwick for winning the Wheelbarrow of Wine raffle. The Wine Safari raised £1,400 which will go towards village hall improvements.

Thanks to all who attended and to the hosts Glynn & Brian, Ali & Charles, Jean & Jay and Helen & Joe, whose hard work and hosting made this event so enjoyable.

Wilbarston Film Club



Run by volunteers, Wilbo Film Club (WFC) aims to show a wide range of films, including newer releases, to bring the best of

Hollywood to a social, community cinema setting.

A large 4m projector screen, professional sound system, licensed bar and snacks make for a great experience at exceptional value. WFC offers a loyalty card scheme at no additional cost, and welcomes people from Wilbarston and surrounding villages and towns.

Screenings are usually on the last Wednesday of each month,

For more information see wilbarstonvillagehall.co.uk/wilbo-film-club, or find them on Facebook @wilbofilmclub.

There's also an e-newsletter that goes out once a month, with the very occasional extra notification if appropriate. You can sign up for this through the above website.

What's On

For latest events, see
cottinghamnews.co.uk

TRUCK FOOD THURSDAYS

11th
SEPTEMBER



**Tamashi
Asian
Soul Food**

18th
SEPTEMBER



**Tamashi
Asian
Soul Food**

25th
SEPTEMBER



**HANDMADE
SOURDOUGH
PIZZAS**

September 2025

Non members and local residents are welcome to join us on Thursdays throughout September for delicious food.

Food available from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

Rockingham Forest Wheelers
11 Ashley Road
Middleton LE16 8YP

*Different
Beers &
Wines to try
each week*



Sat 20 Sep, 7pm

Wine Tasting, Village Hall



Two C's on the Pacific

At our next wine tasting, we will be sampling Spritz and wines from '2 Cs on the Pacific', California and Chile. Tickets are £25 including regional snacks from **Jan Robertson** on **07770 372345**, email janathome246@gmail.com. All proceeds will go towards improvements at the Village Hall. Please bring two glasses with you – one for red and one for white wine.

27 SEPTEMBER

7:30 PM

**PRIZES TO
BE WON!**

**Disco
Bingo**

COTTINGHAM AND MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL

BAR OPEN (CASH AND CARD ACCEPTED)

OPEN MIC



No Entry or
Performance
Fee!

BAR OPEN FROM 6PM ACTS FROM 7.30PM

10 OCTOBER 2025

TO SIGN UP TO PERFORM EMAIL:
MAIL@THEMILLHUB.CO.UK

WWW.THEMILLHUB.CO.UK

Wed 15 Oct, 7pm

Bystanders can be Lifesavers
Ashley Village Hall

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Join the Welland Valley WI and North Northants First Responders to learn more about the use of CPR and defibrillators, and what to do if someone is choking.

Non-members are welcome for a £5 fee.
Contact ashleywellandvalley@gmail.com

Sat 18 Oct, 6.30pm

Quiz Night, Village Hall



With Quiz Master Ant Licquorish. Tickets are £14 each to include a fish or chicken and chip supper, or £5 if you want to bring your own food.

The pop up bar will be open, serving a range of reasonably priced wines, beer, lager, cider and soft drinks at below pub prices. There'll also be a raffle, and prize contributions are welcome.

Food ordered for places booked and subsequently not filled on the night must be paid for, but the £5 quiz charge will be waived.

All proceeds from the quiz will go towards improvements at the village hall.

Doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Please book by 10 October, by emailing **Joanne** on joanne.leaning@btinternet.com, or message her on **07776 261647**.

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

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**

Valley Voice Community Choir
Pete Smith, **07971 989081**
valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com

The choir starts
rehearsals again
on 9 September.



New members are welcome. You don't have to read music, just to enjoy singing with other people. Rehearsals are at 7:30pm on Tuesday evenings during term time in Cottingham school hall. Contact details above.