



Cottingham and Middleton News

February/March 2026

Available online at cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the first issue of Cottingham and Middleton News for 2026.

We ended 2025 on a high, with villagers collectively raising more than £4.5K over the festive season for local causes. This is a fantastic fundraising effort from our local community. We even made the Northants Telegraph!

Planning is already underway for the annual Summer Fete on 11 July and there are lots of other events for you to enjoy over the coming months. See the back page and the village website for more information.

Regards,

Jane Smith, Editor

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



Next issue
April 2026

A427 Closure

The A427, from before the Stoke Albany slip road to the BP Fourways Roundabout, will be closed for resurfacing from 10 to 13 March, between the hours of 8pm and 6am.

While the road is closed, there will be no access to the villages via Corby Road or Middleton Lane (the old A427). For more information, go to one.network.

Village Copyholders – 400 years of history

You may have noticed the interesting stone tablet that's been set into the wall on the corner of Rockingham Road and School Lane.

The stone, which reads 'Erected by the copyholders, 1854, William Thorpe, John Spriggs, Bailiffs', was originally located on the opposite corner, where the flagpole now stands, set into the wall above a water pump and trough. This pump was one of several delivering spring water to villagers, channelled through a network of iron water pipes that had also been installed by the copyholders that same year. The lettering on the tablet would originally have been pegged out in lead.

After 70 years in storage at various properties owned by descendants of the copyholder Bradshaw family, the tablet has now been reinstated just 50 feet from where it started in 1854. The stone was installed by Tiffany and Craig from CRT Masonry in Kettering.

The copyholders can trace their history back to 1614, when 10 village gentry bought the Rights of the Lords of the Manor on a copyhold basis, which is a way of holding and owning land. The copyholders had a marked influence in the development of our local communities, including building the villages' first school in Middleton in 1766.

Cottingham still has copyholders today, with the title having mainly been passed down through families. They own several fields around the villages, and the money raised from rental is used to support village causes including the church and shop.

Our pictures show the village pump in 1912; Eleanor Bradshaw, daughter of current copyholder Peter Bradshaw with the newly installed stone tablet; the copyholders in the early 1900s and the current village copyholders (left to right): Paul Atkins, Shaun Diver, Bob Gowan, Paul Claypole, Jackie Campbell, Nick Claypole, Mike Curtis, Colin Bradshaw, Charles Freestone and Andy Mackie (absent: Peter Bradshaw).

You can find more photos and history about the village copyholders on the in-development village history website at janesmith.co.uk/copyholders.



Cottingham School focuses on road safety

During Road Safety Week in December, Cottingham School held a competition to design a road safety poster, and the Year 5 winning design from Layla has been made into signs and put on lampposts near the school. Layla is pictured left, with her poster design.

"Residents and parents have raised concerns throughout the year about careless driving and parking around the school," says School Headteacher Ashley Scott. "As a school, the safety of our pupils is paramount and we hope the signs will be read. They add to the recently installed fluorescent signs by the school gate."

Parish Councils

Cottingham

Clerk: Rachel Faulkner
07584 212067,
4 Corby Road, Cottingham
LE16 8XH, email
clerk@cottingham-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Andy Mackie (Chair)
Graham Tweed
Jon Hinton
Sue Morphy
Terri McLean-Bowman

Next meeting, Village Hall

Wed 4 March, 7pm
Wed 1 April, 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)
Caroline Boucher (Vice Chair)
Katy Bowyer
Teresa Denton
3 vacancies

Next meeting, Village Hall

Tue 10 March, 6.30pm
Tue 14 April, 6.30pm

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council vacancies

Middleton Parish Council is looking to fill three vacancies.

Councillors meet once a month for an hour or so to discuss matters pertaining to the village that the council can help with.

The role of Parish Councillor isn't an onerous one – the council is simply looking for people who live in Middleton or within a three mile radius who have a couple of hours a month to spare and would like to help their local community.

If you're interested, please contact **Sian Coughlan** on email sian_coughlan@hotmail.com and she can give you more details.

From... The Village Store & Café

In November, the Shop Committee reached out to the community with an appeal to help raise funds for a much needed replacement coffee machine for the Village Store and Café. We are delighted to share that, thanks to the generosity of residents who supported the various fundraising initiatives, including the Christmas craft fair, raffle and Christmas window trail, together with donations from individuals and local organisations, we were able to purchase and install the new coffee machine in January.



Thank you for making this possible. The staff and volunteers have praised the machine for its ease of use and straightforward maintenance – a welcome improvement. More importantly, our customers have been enjoying the consistently high quality of the hot drinks it produces, from cappuccinos to americanos.

Following last month's urgent appeal for volunteers, the Committee is very pleased to share some positive news. Thanks to the generosity and community spirit shown by local residents, we now have enough volunteers to support day-to-day shop duties and assist with committee responsibilities. This means the future of the Village Store and Café is secure for the time being, and we have avoided the immediate threat of reduced hours or closure.

We cannot overstate our appreciation. Every person who stepped forward has helped us through a critical moment, and your willingness to act so quickly reflects the very best of our community. Your support has made a real and lasting difference and it reflects exactly what makes our villages such a special place to live.

While this is a very welcome step forward, we also need to be realistic – the shop will continue to be at risk unless we maintain a steady pool of volunteers, as even small changes in people's availability can have a significant effect. Building long-term resilience remains essential, so if you are interested in volunteering, whether regularly or just occasionally, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact **Anne Lovell** on email annelovell@btopenworld.com or mobile **07791 741722**.

Joan Clemerson, 1936 – 2025

Joan Clemerson of Hill Farm, Middleton, passed away peacefully at home on 11 November 2025, aged 89.



The Clemersons owned Hill Farm since 1967, with their beautiful Austrian Haflinger ponies in the adjacent field. Joan used to ring the bells at Cottingham Church, and she and her husband Peter once loaded the bells into their horse trailer to take them to Taylor's Foundry in Loughborough for repair. Horace, a local carpenter, cut a hole in the floor of the church tower so they could be lowered to the ground and Ron Claypole used his tractor to load the bells into the trailer.

Joan's son Charles is pleased to hear that the bells are being rung again, and the village bell ringers were honoured to ring the bells for Joan's funeral in her memory.

Dryden Phillipson

We were sad to hear that Dryden Phillipson, former Chair of Middleton Parish Council, recently passed away in France where he has been living for some years with wife Paula. Our thoughts are with Paula and all Dryden's family.



Village Hall new website

Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall has a brand new website that contains all of the information you need regarding the hall, including latest events. Visit cottinghamandmiddletonvh.com and you can also follow the Village Hall on Facebook [@cottinghamandmiddletonvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/cottinghamandmiddletonvillagehall).



The Future of The Dale – your views matter

The Dale has long been one of our village's most cherished green spaces – a peaceful pocket park enjoyed by walkers, dog owners, families, and anyone who simply wants a quiet moment in nature. Over the years, it has also hosted summer grazing cattle, helping to manage the grassland in a traditional, low impact way.



As we look ahead, Cottingham Parish Council would like to hear your thoughts on how The Dale should be cared for and used in the future. This is a community space, and your ideas will help shape what happens next.

What would you like to see?

- Benches or seating areas for resting, reading, or enjoying the view?
- Tree planting to enhance shade, beauty, and long-term habitat?
- Conservation or biodiversity projects, such as wildflower areas, bird boxes, or habitat restoration?
- Seasonal cattle grazing, continuing the traditional management approach?
- Or any other ideas you feel would benefit the space and the community?

Nothing is decided. This is an open conversation and we want to hear from as many residents as possible.

Please send your suggestions, comments, or questions to Cottingham Parish Council at clerk@cottingham-pc.gov.uk or speak to any councillor directly. Your feedback will help us create a plan that balances access, nature, and the character of The Dale for years to come.

Welland Valley Voice Community Choir

Well done to our community choir, who raised **£389** from carolling just before Christmas, to be shared between Lakelands Hospice and the local Air Ambulance.



The choir's first event for 2026 is a visit to Seagrave House Care Home in Corby in March. They're also busy learning new music for a concert at Medbourne Church on the afternoon of June 14th – please save the date.

The choir is always pleased to see new members and they welcomed several new singers during January. If you enjoy singing with other people, come along and see how you get on. You don't need to read music and there are no auditions. Rehearsals are at 7:30pm on Tuesdays during term time in Cottingham School Hall. You get two free 'taster' sessions and, if you decide to join, it's £16 a month by standing order. Please contact valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com and you can find them on [Facebook @choirvalleyvoice](https://www.facebook.com/choirvalleyvoice).



Have your say on the **Community Governance Review**

Closes **12 March 2026**



North Northants Council is seeking the views of the public, town and parish councils, and any interested parties, on whether they feel their communities are suitably represented and if they would like to see any changes to their current governance arrangements.

To enable you to do this, there's a dedicated website '[Community Governance Review | North Northamptonshire Council](#)' with information and a video that will tell you what this review is all about and how you can participate. You can share your views up until 12 March 2026.

Planning application, Rockingham Road

A request for permission in principle (PIP) has been submitted for six self-build houses on Rockingham Road, just opposite the old shoe factory (Burghley House). You can view the planning application (Reference: 25/02223/PIP) on the [Northants County Council Planning Portal](#).

The deadline for comments is 23 February.

Church new loo project

More than £9,000 has now been raised for the installation of a toilet at Cottingham Church, including £730 from the Christmas Ghost Stories, £362 from the Christmas craft sale at the shop, and £300 from the auction of the mini needle-felted alpacas.

The church team is currently liaising with potential suppliers to see where the toilet could be sited and to get a better idea of costs. We'll keep you posted on progress.

Crafty Mondays!



Calling all knitters, hookers, stitchers and other fabricky people!

There's a new free craft group taking place upstairs at the Village Store and Café from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Mondays. If you're interested in sharing a skill or learning a new one, please come along, or contact **Viv** on **07983 395356**.

R1 Bus Timetable

There have been some changes to the timetable for the R1 Rutlander bus service, in that there are now two buses a day that no longer run through Cottingham or Great Easton. You can download the timetable from the village website at [cottinghamnews.co.uk/bus](https://www.cottinghamnews.co.uk/bus).

Urgent dental treatment

Need to see a dentist urgently? Extra urgent dental appointments are now available. Visit NHS111 or phone 111 to book. You don't need to be registered with an NHS dentist. For more information and a list of urgent conditions visit [icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/dental](https://www.icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/dental).

What's On

For latest events, see
cottinghamnews.co.uk

Sat 28 Feb, 7pm

An Evening With Oh Brother!



This trio of musical brothers will be performing at Cottingham School Hall. Siblings Alan, Peter and George bring you a foot-tapping, heartwarming blend of bluegrass, ballads, vaudeville and folk. The bar will be open in the Village Hall, but you're also welcome to bring your own tipples and nibbles.

Tickets are £10 from TicketSource. Scan the QR code or call **0333 666 3366**.



Village wine tastings

The festive wine tasting in December raised an amazing £1,185, bringing the total raised by these events since they started in 2021 to £11,388.

The 'Planet Pinot' wine tasting on 7 March is sold out, but there'll be another one 'Sip the Unexpected' on 6 June.

If you'd like to join the mailing list to be notified when tickets go on sale, please email janathome246@gmail.com.



SING-ALONG!

Saturday 14 March
7pm - 9.30pm

St Mary Magdalene Church, Cottingham

Tickets
£10

Come and join in with all your favourite songs, led by local Welland Valley musicians and singers!

Beer and wine available to purchase. Please bring your own nibbles and soft drinks

For tickets, please email cottinghamchurch@gmail.com, or WhatsApp **07794 682671**

Lyrics will be projected onto giant screens for you all to join in with popular songs like Sweet Caroline, Let it Be, Waterloo, Under the Moon of Love, California Dreaming, Que Sera Sera, Amarillo, Any Dream Will Do, Singing in the Rain and Country Roads, to name but a few! All proceeds will go the Church Loo project.



Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra



Sat 30 May | 7pm

St Mary Magdalene Church,
Cottingham LE16 8XU

Tickets £12
including a glass of wine and nibbles

A nationally acclaimed orchestra featuring six different types of saxophone. See phoenixsax.org.uk

Tickets: cottinghamchurch@gmail.com, 07594 682671

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

Local Councillors (Desborough Ward)
David Howes, 07968 348369
Harry Howes, 07597 044115
Bill McIlhenney, 07359 634662
Email: firstname.surname@northnorthants.gov.uk

Village Store and Café, 770097
cottinghamshop@gmail.com
cottinghamshop.wordpress.com

Cottingham & Middleton Village Hall
Email: cottmidvh@outlook.com
cottinghamandmiddletonvh.com

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

Save the date

6 June, 7pm: Village Wine Tasting

11 July, 12–5pm: Village Fete

16 Aug, 3pm: 24 Carat Jazz concert, Cottingham Church

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

2026 Cottingham and Middleton

Summer Fete

11th July 2026 - 12 Noon till 5pm



WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH:

- Manning Stalls
- Setting up Stalls
- Erecting Gazebos
- Putting out chairs and tables on the day
- Supporting stall holders on the day
- Rubbish and recycling collection
- Dismantling Gazebos
- Donating Raffle and Tombola Prizes

If you can lend a hand in any way please contact Sian on:

07774 852478

sian_coughlan@hotmail.com



The Pop Up bar at the Village Hall has relaunched as 'The Village Social'. It will be open from 6.15pm on Sat 28 Feb and from 6pm on Fri 27 March and Fri 24 April. You can find a full list of opening times and events at cottinghamandmiddletonvh.com.