



Cottingham and Middleton News

April 2026

Available online at cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the April 2026 issue of Cottingham and Middleton News.

There's lots happening in the villages over the coming months – too much for the Whats On page alone! So, please also take a look at the articles to find out what's happening and, for a full list, see the village website at cottinghamnews.co.uk/events.

Regards,

Jane Smith, Editor

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



Next issue
June 2026

Village Social

The Village Social at the Village Hall will be open from 6pm on 24 April, 8 & 22 May, 5 & 19 June. You can find a full list of opening times and other events at cottinghamandmiddletonvh.com.



Street Food Wednesdays

Street Food Wednesdays are returning to outside Rockingham Wheelers Club House on Ashley Road. The Tamashi Asian Soul Food Truck will be visiting on 6 & 20 May, 3 & 17 June, Ovenscraft Pizza on 13 & 27 May, and hopefully The Courtyard Creperie on 10 & 24 June.

Requiem performance celebrates organ restoration



Cottingham's church organ has undergone an extensive restoration, thanks to a very generous donation from a village family, in fond memory of Sue Beadsworth.

The organ was built in the late 19th Century by prestigious organ makers Wordsworth and Maskell of Leeds. It was presented to the church in 1880 by Henry Burgess of Middleton, in memory of his wife Mary Elizabeth and her parents John and Mary Cannam. And in 1939, electric power was added, funded by a donation from Henry and Mary Burgess's children.

The organ has been taken apart for a thorough clean of the pipes, keyboards, tuning wires, reeds, shallots, tongues, slides, guide pins, pallet springs, pulldowns, rollerboards, trackers and blower control valve.

Repairs have including 'rounding out' the metal pipes and removing any dents or splits; repairing and replacing leather stops and buttons, cloth washers and felt cushion pads; and patching the leatherwork on the bellows. Moving parts have been lubricated, with felt and wax added to the pedals to aid quietness, and the whole instrument has been finely tuned.

The first public performance for the organ following restoration was on Good Friday, when organist Philip Millward accompanied the Welland Valley Benefice Choir in a performance of Fauré's Requiem, led by Darren Oliver as part of the Easter Vigil.

It was certainly appreciated by the large audience who filled the church, and this restoration will ensure that the organ will be able to fill the church with beautiful music for many years to come.

Pictured clockwise from top: Cottingham church organ, the Welland Valley Benefice Choir with Darren Oliver (right), organist Philip Millward and the organ pipes laid out for repair.



Get Goat Walking with Ganders!

Did you know that Ganders Goat on Rockingham Road offers a goat walking experience? You'll be taken on a 1km walk around the farm with a goat on a lead. You'll get to meet other members of the herd, including the gorgeous kids that were born in March, and hopefully also see some of the wildlife that's all part of life at Ganders Farm. This fun activity is available for anyone aged 8 and over (under 12s must be accompanied by an adult, walking without a goat). The experience lasts around 60–90 minutes with prices from £18 each. You can also buy gift vouchers for goat walking. To book and for more information, visit gandersgoat.com/shop.

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 6 May, 7pm
Wed 3 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)
Caroline Boucher (Vice Chair)
Katy Bowyer
Teresa Denton
3 vacancies

Next meeting, Village Hall

Tue 12 May, 6.30pm
Tue 9 June, 6.30pm

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

From... The Village Store & Café

Following our recent volunteer appeal, we're delighted to say that several local residents have joined our team at the shop and café. They've all completed their inductions and have worked their first shifts. It's really good to see them settling in so quickly, bringing fresh energy, enthusiasm, and a real commitment to supporting the shop.

The Easter raffle raised £250, which has been used to buy a new air fryer. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who bought a ticket which is helping us continue to improve the café for the whole community.

A friendly space

Life changes in many ways when we lose a partner, and one of the things people often miss most is simple, friendly company. The Committee is exploring the idea of a relaxed afternoon gathering at the village café, when the shop is closed, for local residents who are widows or widowers. It would simply be a friendly space to enjoy a coffee, a slice of cake and a chat with others who understand life after loss. There would be no agenda, no expectations, and no pressure – just a comfortable space to meet new people, share stories, or simply enjoy being around others.

If this is something you might like to come along to, we'd love to hear from you. Your interest will help us decide whether to set this up. Please contact **Paula Orton** on paula.orton50@yahoo.co.uk, mobile **07771 546346**.

Shareholder AGM, Tuesday 19 May

The 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Cottingham and Middleton Village Shop and Café Ltd will take place at the Village Hall at 6pm on 19 May.

To conduct the meeting and carry out the necessary business, the meeting must be quorate, so we strongly encourage as many shareholders as possible to attend the AGM, or to complete the voting paper that will be sent to all shareholders three weeks before the meeting.

Voting papers will also be available at the shop from 28 April to 18 May, and there'll be a box in the shop for completed voting papers.



Pictured (left to right): Committee member Paula Orton with new volunteers Lisbeth Thomsen, Sheila Lloyd, Caroline Boucher and Julie Butcher

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



Valley Voice



The first event for Valley Voice this year was a visit to Seagrave House Residential Home in Corby in March. The choir chose a repertoire of songs the audience would know, and many joined in. The choir is now learning new music for a concert at **Medbourne Church** at **3pm on 14 June**. Please save the date. For more information about the choir, email valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com or check out their Facebook page [@choirvalleyvoice](https://www.facebook.com/choirvalleyvoice).

The Magnificent Seven!



Did you know that Cottingham Village Store and Café stocks a range of craft beers from the local Weldon Brewery?

You can choose from seven different bottled brews that are only available at the Village Store or from Weldon Brewery. Why not pop in and try some? And if you can't see the flavour you want on the shelf, please ask, as there'll usually be more in stock.



In memory

We have sadly bid farewell to several of our friends and neighbours in recent months. Our thoughts are with their family and friends. May they rest in peace.

Norman Needham, president of Rockingham Forest

Whealers Cycle Club, passed away on 21 March. Norman's funeral will take place at **11am on 20 April** at Cottingham Church. Family flowers only please, but donations are invited to Marie Curie through Stamps Funeral Directors, or to be given on the day after the service. Cycle Club members will be riding with Norman on his final journey to Cottingham Church to say thank you for the time and commitment he gave to the club over his lifetime, and to celebrate the life he lived to the full.

Roy Bailey passed away on 7 February. He was born in Cottingham in 1942 and lived here all his life.

John Samuels retired to Middleton with his wife Kath after 24 years in the pub trade, having formerly followed a career in hairdressing. He passed away on 18 February, aged 84. John will be fondly remembered for his love of life, generous heart and wonderful sense of humour.

Mel Freeman passed away on 28 March after, his wife Pauline tells us, "fighting cancer like a true warrior". We will remember Mel for his cheery smile, often seen motoring around the village on his quad bike.

Kitty Smith, who lived with her husband Richard at the bottom of Water Lane, sadly passed away recently in a nursing home in Derbyshire.

Pictured top to bottom: Norman Needham, Roy Bailey, John Samuels and Mel Freeman.



Church new loo project

The fundraising to install a toilet at Cottingham Church now stands at more than £11,600, with £1,400 raised from the 'Saturday Night Live' event at the church in April and £340 from the sale of Woollentops Easter bunnies, hand crafted from Cottingham alpaca fleece. Thanks to everyone who has organised and supported these fundraising activities.



You can now follow Woollentops on Facebook at facebook.com/woollentops.

Village wine tastings



The Planet Pinot wine tasting in March raised £752 for Village Hall funds, bringing the total raised from these events to £12,141.

The next wine tasting on 6 June is sold out, but if you'd like to go on the waiting list, or on the email list to be informed about future wine tastings, please email janathome246@gmail.com.



Ashley Welland Valley WI

Your local Ashley Welland Valley WI start their new year this month, so now is a great time to join. Members come from Ashley, East Carlton, Cottingham, Middleton, Stoke Albany, Wilbarston and Great Oakley, and they meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Ashley Village Hall. Monthly meetings generally include a speaker, activity or demonstration and the WI also tries to arrange a monthly social event, for example walks and theatre outings.



The £54 annual subscription includes 11 monthly meetings, eight WI Life magazines and access to the WI online learning hub. The Northamptonshire Federation of WIs also arrange walks, quizzes, speakers, trips, crafting sessions etc at much reduced rates.

If you'd like more information or are interested in joining, please email joint presidents **Chris West-Robinson** and **Frances Field** on ashleywellandvalley@gmail.com.

You can find a full programme of events at ashleyvillage.co.uk.

New laws to protect livestock from dog attacks

New laws have come into effect to give farm animals stronger protection from dog attacks. The maximum penalty for livestock worrying, which occurs when a dog you own or are in charge of chases, attacks, or causes distress to livestock on agricultural land, has increased from £1,000 to an unlimited fine.

The Police also now have powers to seize and detain a dog if they have reasonable grounds to believe it has attacked or worried livestock and that there's a risk it could do so again. Please keep your dog on a lead at all times when around livestock.

There has also been an increase in reports of dog mess around the villages recently. Please pick up after your dog, dispose of the mess in a poo or public waste bin, or take it home with you. If you witness someone not cleaning up after their dog, please report it to North Northants Council with details of the date, time and location, the frequency it happens, a description of the dog and details of the offender.

What's On

For latest events, see
cottinghamnews.co.uk

Tue 21 April, 1–2.15pm

Harmoni Yoga, Village Hall



New yoga classes are starting at the Village Hall with Harmoni Yoga. They are £8 each and you can pay on the day by cash, card or bank transfer, but please email Jacqui in advance on harmoniwellbeing@gmail.com so she knows how many people to expect.

She recommends you bring a yoga mat, bottle of water and a blanket or cushion for added comfort during relaxation.

SAVE THE ROYAL GEORGE PUB COMMUNITY MEETING
TUESDAY 21ST APRIL AT 6.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL
Our village pub has closed again! And we need your help. Come along to share your ideas, support, & suggestions on how the community can work together to bring our pub back to life.
Everyone is welcome
If you have a question you think might need researching ahead of the meeting please can you send your questions in advance via email to CLERK@COTTINGHAM-PC.GOV.UK
CAN'T ATTEND BUT WANT TO HELP? JOIN THE COMMUNITY WHATSAPP GROUP, MESSAGE: ANDY – 07885 202926 RACHEL – 07584 212067

STOP PRESS: Pub sale agreed

We've recently learned that a sale has been agreed for The Royal George building, we believe to someone from the local community. The intention is to still go ahead with the above meeting, for villagers to discuss ideas and show support. Keep your eye on the village social media for the latest information.

Sat 23 May, 6.30 for 7pm

Open Mic, Village Hall



By popular demand, we're holding another Open Mic evening at the Village Hall.

Whether you're a singer, poet, comedian, or storyteller – the mic is yours!

Entrance is free, the bar will be open from 6.30pm and performances start at 7pm.

Bring your friends, your voice, and your courage. Drinks flowing. Applause guaranteed.

For more information or to book a slot, please contact **George** on **07891 159155** or email grwrconsultingltd@gmail.com.

Mary's Coffee Morning
Fundraiser in aid of Cottingham Church Loo Fund
Saturday 25 April
10am – 12pm Village Hall Annex
Homemade biscuits, cakes and great company. Cakes for sale, nearly new tabletop sale and a fabulous raffle.
£5 entry to include a slice of cake and tea/coffee
See you there!

Sat 16 May, St Mary Magdalene

Bellringers Tower Open Day

Cottingham Church will be taking part in a tower open day on 16 May. St Mary's is one of 24 local churches that will be open for visiting campanologists to come and ring the bells. Cottingham will be open from 11am to 12.10pm, and the church bells will be ringing throughout this period.

There may be additional vehicles in the village around this time, especially down Church Street. Thank you in advance for your co-operation and support.

Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra

Sat 30 May | 7pm

St Mary Magdalene Church,
Cottingham LE16 8XU

Tickets £12
including a glass of fizz 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
David Hill, **07718 881258**

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...

11 July, 12–5pm: Village Fete

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

21 Nov, 7pm, Fish & Chip Quiz Village Hall