



Cottingham and Middleton News

June 2026

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

We hope you enjoy this issue and also hope to see you out and about over the summer, including at the Village Fete on 11 July, or up at the pub!

Regards, Jane Smith, Editor

3 Corby Road, 07800 523077

jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk



The sale of these baby hedgehogs, needle-felted from Cottingham alpaca fleece, has raised £74 for the church new loo fund. Woollentops are now making a few more of these to raise money for [Hal's Urban Hedgehogs](#).

If you'd like one, they're £8 each.

Please contact **Jane** on **07800 523077**. More pictures at [Facebook.com/woollentops](https://www.facebook.com/woollentops).

Welland Valley Highlands

When Steve and Sue Morphy headed off to their first 2026 show at Newark Showground recently, what a surprise they had in store! They showed three Highland cows – Charlotte, Princess and Ruby. Charlotte came 1st and was champion, Princess came 1st, female champion and reserve breed champion, and Ruby came 3rd. Their grand daughter Sophia also received a red rosette with Ruby in the young handler's competition. What a great start to the year!



Cottingham FroGS - read all about it!



Cottingham FroGS (Friends of Green Spaces) have installed new information boards on the Corby Road Bank and 'Bide Awhile', on the path up to The Dale, funded by a grant from North Northants Council Rural Community Capital Grant Fund and a generous donation from last year's Christmas Ghost Stories up at the church.

The stands and cases have been installed by Steve Morphy and the display boards, which have been designed by Pete Bowman (pictured left with FroGS' George West-Robinson), provide information on the projects and all the hard work that FroGS have put in to creating these fabulous green spaces for our village. Take a look next time you pass by.

Welland Valley ringers strike all the right notes



Our Welland Valley bellringing team came out tops in a recent striking competition, organised by the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Bellringers.

In a striking competition, teams are judged on the accuracy, rhythm, and precision of their change ringing, aiming for the fewest faults, such as uneven spacing. Our team, left to right Claire Bowles, Jonathan Seymour, Andy Bimson, Hannah Conlon, Siobhan Lovell and Joanne Leaning, came first and have proudly brought home the Centenary Trophy, which celebrates 100 years of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild (1924–2024).

If you've ever fancied having a go at bellringing, the team will be at the Village Fete on 11 July with a dummy bell for you to have a go on. You can also download a learners' leaflet from the village website at cottinghamnews.co.uk/church-bells.

Helping our hedgehogs



A very poorly hedgehog was discovered in a garden in Blind Lane recently. Having been taken in by the concerned homeowners, he was then taken to Oakham Veterinary Hospital for assessment and back to [Hal's Urban Hedgehogs](#), a self-funded micro rescue in Corby. Unfortunately, he was in a very bad way and, despite everyone's best efforts, didn't make it.

We've put some tips and advice on caring for hedgehogs on the village website at cottinghamnews.co.uk/hedgehogs. This includes making sure hedgehogs can safely get in and out of your garden, warning signs to look out for and what to feed them. But if you do one thing, please leave out shallow bowls of fresh water which can be a lifeline for hedgehogs and other wildlife. You can also record hedgehog sightings at Bighedgehogmap.org.

Hals Urban Hedgehogs on **07401 044700** are our nearest rescue and your first port of call if you need help with a hog. You can support Hal's by setting them up on [Easyfundraising](#), whereby the rescue will receive donations from retailers while you shop, and it won't cost you a penny! You can also donate at peoplesfundraising.com/donation/hal-s-urban-hedgehogs. Thank you everyone for caring.

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)
Jon Hinton (Vice Chair)
Charlotte Burnham
George West-Robinson
Graham Tweed
Sue Morphy
Terri McLean-Bowman

Next meeting, Village Hall

Wed 1 July, 7pm
cottingham-pc.gov.uk

Middleton

Clerk: Justina Medwell
07813 696387, 5 Main Street,
Middleton, LE16 8YU, email
clerk@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Sian Coughlan (Chair)
Caroline Boucher (Vice Chair)
Darren Hallam-Wall
Katy Bowyer
Shaun Roper-Caldbeck
2 vacancies

Next meeting, Village Hall

Tue 14 July, 6.30pm
www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

Village wine tastings



At the 16th Welland Valley Wine Tasting on 6 June, attendees were invited to 'Sip the Unexpected', sampling wines from grapes and countries that hadn't been explored before including Armenia, Moldova and Lebanon. The evening raised £690, taking the total raised by these events since they started to £12,831, all towards Village Hall improvements.

The next tasting is planned for 12 September. If you'd like to be notified when full details, including theme and ticket price, are announced, please contact **Jan** on email janathome246@gmail.com.

From... The Village Store & Café

Over the past month, the Village Store and Café has seen significant changes in our leadership team and we would like to pay a huge tribute and express our thanks and gratitude to two of our dedicated members, **Wendy Curtis** and **Audrey Teodorini**, who for personal reasons have decided to step down from the Committee.

Since the shop opened in 2011, Wendy has been a constant figure behind the counter and behind the scenes, and after 15 years she's decided it's time to pass on the baton to others. Wendy's ideas, her determination to steer the shop to achieve sustainability and growth, the cost controls she introduced as Treasurer and her famous Rocky Road and cakes (don't worry she's going to continue to bake!), are legendary. Her ever by-her-side husband Michael has also decided to step back from looking after the day-to-day maintenance at the shop. His expansive knowledge of 'how it works' and ability to fix it, despite the challenges, has been inspirational.

Those who know Audrey understand that she is a very busy lady and has a number of commitments outside of the shop, and as such she has stepped down as our Secretary, a role which demands a significant amount of time and focus on the detail, but we are grateful that she will continue as one of our valued volunteers.

To all three, 'thank you' really doesn't seem enough for everything you have done over the years of dedicated and sometimes frustrating devotion to the future of our Village Store and Café.

At our annual shareholders' meeting in May, two new members, **Adam Warne** and **Martin Reuby**, were elected to the Committee for the year. Adam lives in Cottingham with his family and brings expertise in IT and marketing. He's also a whizz with a screwdriver and will take on some of the maintenance tasks. Martyn brings a knowledge of employment law and community-based projects working within a committee environment. We welcome them both.

As the village prepares for the Fete on 11 July, we are speaking with our suppliers to offer visitors samples of some of the fresh products and Weldon beer available in the shop, so please visit the stand on the day and give them a try.

If you have any queries or suggestions for the shop, please feel free to contact **Paula Orton** on email paula.orton50@yahoo.co.uk.

Update from Middleton Residents Action Group

Oakley Park. After the intentional unlawful development at Oakley Park and Land South of Oakley Park, and thanks to persistent efforts from both Middleton Parish Council (MPC) and Middleton Residents Action Group (RAG), four enforcement notices were issued for these sites in September 2024.

Two of the enforcement notices were subsequently appealed and, on 12 May 2026, the Planning Inspector allowed one appeal but dismissed the second. This means there are currently three active enforcement notices in place for these Oakley Park sites.



Retrospective planning permission had previously been granted at appeal in April 2023 for 10 gypsy and traveller pitches four on Oakley Park and six more on Oakley Park South. However, the number of static caravans and the extent of development conducted on the land far exceeded the strict limits imposed by that permission.

Planning Inspector Mark Harbottle found there had not been a lawful commencement of the 2023 retrospective permission, stating, "it appears that a different residential caravan site development has been carried out." He also emphasised that key conditions for development covering road access, landscaping, biodiversity, drainage, refuse storage, and lighting were not satisfied.

MPC and RAG are now in active discussions with North Northants Council (NNC) regarding the three live enforcement notices. These notices require the site owners to remove all caravans stored on the land, along with any hardstanding, structures, and infrastructure, within three months. Full restoration of the land to its prior state before the unauthorised development is also required within five months.

Peasdale Hill. To clarify the Peasdale Hill situation, the occupants lost their appeal for five gypsy and traveller pitches in 2024. The legal process for their removal and the restoration of the land now rests with the Courts. A court date is currently awaited.

Residents can rest assured that MPC and RAG continue to liaise regularly with NNC about both Oakley Park and Peasdale Hill, and will do everything possible to ensure NNC is held accountable regarding these enforcement matters.

Royal George reopens

Villagers flocked back to their local over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend to enjoy the sunshine on the new decking, drinks flowing from a well-stocked bar, live music, a BBQ and a very warm welcome from new owners Danny and Claire Waddington, and managers Cara and Kev Martin.

Cara and Kev (pictured right) together have a combined 40 years' experience in hospitality, having previously run The Knight's Lodge in Corby and, before that, the London Inn in Stamford and The Craftsman, that used to be on Corby's Ise Lodge estate.



"We've received such a warm welcome since we opened," said Kev. "Everyone has been so supportive. This village has a great community shop and an amazing school, and we want the pub to once more become part of the village community where everyone feels welcome to pop in, meet up with friends and enjoy some friendly company."

A chef has now joined the team and the pub hopes to get the kitchen up and running in the near future. Families and children of all ages are welcome, and four-legged visitors are welcome too, just not on the indoor seating or in the restaurant.

The pub has introduced a weekly meat raffle, with produce from Frank's Butchers of Rothwell. Tickets are £2 each and are available throughout the week, with the draw taking place every Friday at 8pm, when you'll need to be in the pub to collect your prize. There are lots of other ideas in the pipeline too, including quiz and bingo nights, and there's an Oktoberfest-style mini beer festival planned for September, complete with oompah band. The pub's five B&B rooms are also available for booking through Booking.com or directly with the pub.

The pub is open every day, from 4 to 11pm Monday to Thursday and from 12 to 11pm Friday to Sunday. For the latest information, see the pub's Facebook page [@cottinghamroyalgeorge](#) and website theroyalgeorgecottingham.co.uk, or contact them on theroyalgeorgecottingham1262@gmail.com.

The final word goes to Danny and Claire. "We'd like to thank everyone for their support, encouragement and patience while we found our feet over such a busy opening weekend. It truly does mean the world to us. We are so proud and pleased to have the village pub back open, and to see it full of life again has been incredibly special. Here's to many more great weekends, good times and memories at The Royal George."

Did you know? The 1262 in the pub's new email address refers to the date the cruck beams in the oldest part of the pub were installed. For old photos and more information on the history of the pub, see janessmith.co.uk/royal-george.

Should we bring new activities to our village?

Cottingham Parish Council (CPC) has recently renewed its membership with Northamptonshire ACRE, a charity that supports rural communities like ours to stay connected and thrive. Through this, CPC has access to a range of free activities and support, and they'd love to know what local residents would benefit from. ACRE helps villages reduce isolation and brings people together through practical, community-led initiatives.

Here are some of the activities on offer.

- Health walks and wellbeing activities
- Digital skills support
- Mental health awareness sessions
- Social groups and coffee mornings
- Support with local planning and community projects

But before taking anything forward, the Parish Council would like to understand what there is genuine interest in. Would you get involved in any of the above, or do you have any other ideas for the village? Please share your thoughts with any Cottingham Parish Councillor (contact details on page 2). Your feedback will help shape what happens next.



Church new loo project



The recent Phoenix Saxophone Orchestra concert at the church raised £600 towards the St Mary Magdalene Church 'new loo' project. Together with an amazing £1,000 raised at Mary Freestone's coffee morning in April, the fundraising total now stands at £13,437.

The next fundraising event is the **24 Carat Jazz** concert at the church on **Sunday 16 August**. Please see the back page for details.

The church team will also be running the tea and cake tent at the Village Fete on 11 July to raise money for the church. Any cake donations are most welcome.

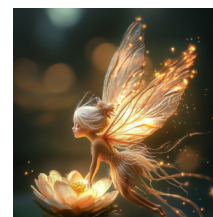
Church clock

You may have noticed that the church clock has not been chiming recently. Unfortunately, two of the gears had ground together and the clock repairer has built a new motor for the clock, under warranty. This is currently being tested and it's hoped that the clock will be fixed very soon.

Valley Voice Choir

Our community choir has a brand new website at valleyvoicechoir.co.uk and you can also follow them on Facebook [@choirvalleyvoice](#). They'll be performing at the Royal George on the evening of **Tuesday 7 July** and at the Village Fete on 11 July. If you're interested in joining the choir, see their website for details.

Fairy Fundraising



Cottingham School held a Fairy Day on 5 June to raise money for 10 year old Indie, a brave little girl who lives in Cottingham and

attends the school, and is currently going through long term treatment for leukaemia. And on 13 June, teachers from the school joined 90 local friends in a fairy themed climb up Snowdon.

Indie has said she'd like to help build a garden at Leicester Royal Infirmary, where she is receiving her treatment.

Indie's family would like to give their heartfelt thanks to everyone who has put their all into these events. It means such a lot.

What's On

For latest events, see
cottinghamnews.co.uk

Tue 23 June, 2pm

Pull Up A Chair, Village Store

Since suggesting a get together for widows and widowers in the last newsletter, we've had a number of people who've shown an interest in meeting up.

Anyone who has lost a partner knows that it leaves you with a number of challenges. Talking in general is valuable and can help you come to terms with a death or end of life diagnosis. Everyone's grief is different, and the group aims to provide a safe space for expression and an opportunity to share experiences which may help others going through the same journey, no matter how recent or how long ago.

'Pull Up A Chair' is open to anyone who is widowed to have a coffee with others in the same situation as you. We appreciate some will feel 'it's not for me', but we never know when we just need someone to chat to when life throws us yet another curve ball.

The first get together will be on **23 June at 2pm** in the Village Shop, while the shop is closed. If you'd like to come along or to find out more, please contact **Paula Orton** on **07771 546346** or email paula.orton50@yahoo.co.uk

Food Truck Wednesdays

Rockingham Forest Wheelers Clubhouse, 5-9pm



17 June	Tamashi Asian Soul Food
24 June	Ovencraft Pizza
1 July	Tamashi Asian Soul Food
8 July	Courtyard Creperie
15 July	Tamashi Asian Soul Food
22 July	Ovencraft Pizza
29 July	Tamashi Asian Soul Food
5 Aug	Courtyard Creperie
12 Aug	Tamashi Asian Soul Food
19 Aug	Ovencraft Pizza (provisional, TBA)
26 Aug	Tamashi Asian Soul Food

Village Socials, Village Hall, 6pm

3, 17 and 31 July
14, 29 August

Date for your diary

Saturday 21 November, Fish and Chips Quiz



COTTINGHAM AND MIDDLETON SUMMER FETE

TEAS & CAKES, ICE CREAMS,
DRINKS/BAR/COCKTAILS, LIVE MUSIC,
RAFFLE, TOMBOLA, PLANTS, CRAFTS,
GAMES, BOUNCY SLIDES, BBQ, ANIMALS,
VINTAGE VEHICLES ***

JULY | 11TH | 2026

FUN FOR ALL - FREE ENTRY
STALLS & ATTRACTIONS FROM 12 NOON TILL 4PM
MUSIC & BAR TILL 5PM

Contactless payments for bar & BBQ, Cash for all other stalls

COTTINGHAM & MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL, BERRYFIELD ROAD, LE16 8XB

IN CONJUNCTION WITH COTTINGHAM AND MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCILS

24 Carat Jazz

Sunday 16 August 3pm



The Sunday Sessions

St Mary Magdalene Church, Cottingham

TICKETS £10
INCLUDING A GLASS OF FIZZ AND CANAPES

Contact: cottinghamchurch@gmail.com, 07594 682671
All profits to the church 'new loo' project

Exercise Classes, Village Hall



King's Fitness, Zumba, Mondays
6.30-7.30pm

£8.50 a class with Sarah King. Prebook at
kingsfitness.simplybook.me/v2/#book



Harmoni Yoga, Tuesdays 1-2.15pm

£8 a class. Contact Jacqui on email
harmoniwellbeing@gmail.com

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

Warm Space, Village Hall
Angela Preston-Jones, 07594 682671
cottinghamchurch@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
valleyvoicechoir.co.uk