



Cottingham and Middleton News

Autumn 2026

Available online at cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the Autumn 2026 newsletter. We have important updates in this issue from some

of the groups that keep our villages alive and ticking. We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank James from Drayton who has done an amazing job weeding and clearing the kerbside all the way out of the village on Corby Road – and during the summer heatwave too! We'd also like to thank our wonderful village litter pickers for helping keep our villages looking clean and tidy. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

Regards, Jane Smith, Editor

3 Corby Road, 07800 523077

jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk

Next issue: November 2026

Warm Space nominated for King's Award

The St Mary Magdalene Church Warm Space initiative, that takes place every week at the Village Hall, has been nominated for a prestigious King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS).

Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and

Warm Space was delighted to welcome Deputy Lieutenants of Leicestershire – fitness guru **Rosemary Conley CBE** and **Dr Nik Kotecha OBE**, Pro-Chancellor of De Montfort University – to Cottingham as part of the evaluation process.



"We were thrilled to learn that our beloved Warm Space had been nominated for this prestigious award," said Rev Amanda Oliver (pictured front right above). "It was such a privilege to welcome our guests, who spent time talking with Warm Space members over posh cake and champagne, and even more so to listen to our members share their experience and love for Warm Space."

Warm Space has been running for nearly four years and now attracts 130 of our older villagers every month who come along to enjoy the company of friends, visiting speakers, activities and outings. If you'd like to come along or find out more, please contact **Angela** on 07594 682671, email cottinghamchurch@gmail.com.

Village Hall Update from the Mill and Village Hall Trustees

Over the past 18 months, the Cottingham and Middleton Mill Community Hub and Village Hall committees have worked together to make a number of improvements to the Village Hall, helping to create a more welcoming and flexible space for the whole community.

Recent upgrades include new bifold doors overlooking the playing fields, external signage, free Wi-Fi, improved lighting inside and out, and a refurbished bar area with a new fridge and external serving window. These improvements have been made possible through fundraising activities and community support, and this year we've raised more than £5,100 from the **Village Fete**, £1,400 from **Wine Tasting** events and £2,700 from the **Village Social** where the **Chase the Joker** raffle recently raised over £930, which included a donation of the entire £700 jackpot from the winner. We'd like to thank everyone who has organised, volunteered at, supported and attended these events.

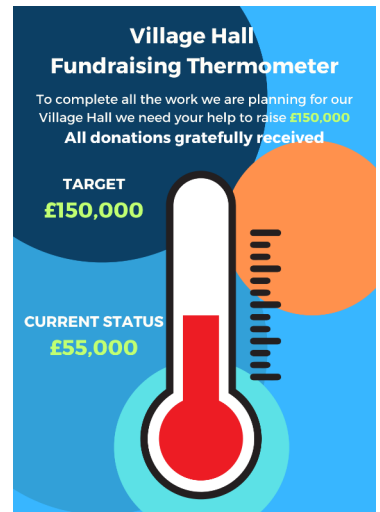
Looking ahead, our priority is to upgrade the toilet facilities and create additional storage in the hall. Subject to funding, we'd also like to install a new kitchen, create an outdoor terrace and seating area, refresh the décor and replace the flooring. Improving parking facilities remain a longer-term ambition.

To deliver these larger projects, particularly the toilet and kitchen improvements, we ultimately need to raise around £150,000. The good news is that we are already around a third of the way towards that target.

As volunteer-led charities, we are hugely grateful to our trustees and volunteers who give their time alongside work, family and other commitments. Every contribution, however large or small, helps make a difference.

You can support the Village Hall by attending events, using the Village Social bar, booking the hall for meetings, classes or celebrations, taking part in raffles, or sharing fundraising ideas and grant opportunities. If you would like to volunteer, become a trustee or make a donation, please email cottmiddvh@outlook.com.

You can find more details on the Village Hall's plans at cottinghamandmiddletonvh.com (see 'Latest News').



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 meetings, Village Hall

Wed 7 October, 7pm
Wed 4 November, 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)
Katy Bowyer
Shaun Roper-Caldbeck
3 vacancies

Next meeting, Village Hall

Tue 29 September, 6.30pm
Tue 13 October, 6.30pm
Tue 10 November, 6.30pm
middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

From... The Village Store & Café

We are pleased to announce that we have a fabulous new website at cottinghamshop.co.uk. Take a look and see our local suppliers and offers. We also have a new email address: info@cottinghamshop.co.uk.

Autumn Craft Fayre, Fri 16 to Sun 18 October, 9am–1pm each day

We have been offered some lovely, very reasonably priced handcrafted items to sell by a very generous local lady, who is giving all profits from a three day sale to the Village Shop, which will help us continue to improve our services to the community. We hope you will support this event. If you can't make the shop sale days, there'll be a further opportunity to purchase a selection of items at the Warm Space at the Village Hall on Wednesday 21 October. A donation from this extra event will go to Warm Space.

Pull Up a Chair

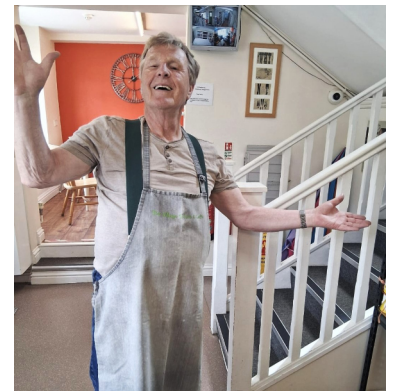
We began a group for widows and widowers from Cottingham and Middleton three months ago and have enjoyed some great conversation and laughter as well as a cuppa. The group is a friendly safe space for those who have found themselves widowed, no matter how recently or long ago, to meet and chat with others in the same situation – life goes on and with a little help and support from others, it does get easier. Meetings are held in the shop on the last Tuesday of every month at 2pm and you'll be very welcome. Contact **Paula Orton** on paula.orton50@yahoo.co.uk, mobile **07771 546346** for more information.

Shareholders

When the shop opened, we were extremely fortunate to have generous villagers who became shareholders but, over time, there have been a number who have moved or sadly passed away, so our records are out of date. Over the next few weeks, we'll be making contact with everyone we have details for to ask for updated information and wishes. If you have moved, or your contact details have changed, please send your new information to info@cottinghamshop.co.uk and, when we contact you, please return your information by the deadline stated so we can ensure our records are up to date.

Volunteers

Here's volunteer Richard Haigh showing that we have real fun in the shop! It's a great way to meet friends and neighbours. If you have few hours to spare either on a regular basis or just ad hoc, please get in touch with **Anne Lovell** on email annelovell@btopenworld.com, mobile **07791 741722**. We would love to have you on board with us.



Community Speedwatch – volunteers needed to make a difference

Speeding through Cottingham continues to be a concern for many residents, and Cottingham Parish Council (CPC) is looking for volunteers to join their Community Speedwatch team.

This is a simple but effective way to help make our village safer for everyone who lives, walks and drives here. Community Speedwatch volunteers work as part of the Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance road safety initiative. They work in small groups using an approved speed detection device to monitor vehicles travelling through the village. Full training and all equipment is provided and sessions are arranged at times that suit the volunteers. Even a short contribution each month helps deter speeding and supports a safer environment for our community.

The information gathered during Speedwatch sessions is passed on to the Police, who contact drivers found exceeding the limit. This is not about confrontation or enforcement on the roadside, it's about raising awareness, encouraging safer driving and reporting those who break the speed limit.

If you'd like to get involved, learn more or join the volunteer rota, please contact CPC Clerk **Rachel Faulkner** on email clerk@cottingham-pc.gov.uk, mobile **07584 212067**. Together, we can help keep Cottingham safe.

St Mary Magdalene Church

An update from Cottingham Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Fundraising for the church loo is progressing well. We've raised £6,281 since the last newsletter, including a generous £5,000 retirement donation; £500 from the 24 Carat Jazz concert in August; £377 from the church tea stall and the Alpacas and Valais of Cottingham at the village fete; £250 from the sale of vintage crockery, kindly donated by Kate Cross and Nicola Tyldesley; and £129 from Woollentops needle-felted hedgehogs and frogs. This brings the total raised so far to **£19,718**.

The PCC has now applied for a 'faculty' (planning permission) from the Diocese and has submitted architect's plans giving several different options for the toilet's location within the church. The Diocese Advisory Committee discussed the application at their meeting in July 2026 and are planning to make a site visit to the church in the next few weeks.

Thank you to everyone who has helped support this project so far. We are making excellent progress!

Church clock repairs

We'd like to update you on the progress of the church clock repairs. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to getting the clock going again, and we can quite understand people's frustration with the clock not working over the summer months.

As you may know, the clock was built in 1881, so the repairs are merging old technology of wheels and cogs with electric motors and GPS. It is still however the pendulum which controls the accuracy of the clock.

The motors replace the tension previously provided by weights for the clock winding mechanism and the chiming side of the clock. When the new motors were added, the clock worked well for nearly a year, but the clock motor couldn't cope with the torque needed to turn the clock wheels, and sadly the cogs ground (quite literally) to a halt.

Our clock specialist Wayne, from Clockwise Restorations, has recently been out to fit a bespoke new more powerful motor – for free. However, there are currently electrical issues with the clock and the power has been turned off awaiting Wayne's return from his annual holiday. We have every confidence that the clock will restart soon, but please bear with us for a little longer.



Cottingham School Forum



Cottingham CofE Primary School is looking for villagers to join the School Forum (previously the

Board of Governors), to support the school and local community. For more information, see cottinghamnews.co.uk/school-forum or contact School Forum Chair **David Sharman** on email d.sharman@cottingham.pdet.org.uk.



For Halloween, Woollentops is making a limited run of these Wee Woolly Witches, handmade from Cottingham alpaca wool – Alan, Biscuit and Kuzco. They're around 11cm tall and come gift wrapped in Halloween tissue paper, in a Woollentops gift bag.

They're £12 each with all proceeds going to the Cottingham Church new loo fund. Please contact **Jane** on **07800 523077** if you'd like one. You can find more info and pics on Facebook [@Woollentops](https://www.facebook.com/Woollentops).

Wheelie wonderful!



Cottingham's Mark Jefferson went to the USA this summer to play penny farthing polo for the GB team. The team won every match they played and, on his return to the UK, Mark took part in the Eastbourne to Beachy Head hill climb, finishing in fifth place.



Meanwhile, Mark's mum Sue has been busy raising money at the village fete by charging £1 for selfies in her Midas Gold classic kit car, pictured here with her grandson Bertie at the wheel.

Valley Voice Choir



Our local community choir Valley Voice has had a busy summer. Their June sellout concert at Medbourne Church went down a storm with the audience and raised £659 for the local Air Ambulance. The choir

also sang at the Royal George pub and the village fete in July.

The choir is now back rehearsing after the summer break and they're always pleased to see new members. Interested? Email valleyvoicechoir@gmail.com, visit their website at valleyvoicechoir.co.uk or find them on Facebook [@ChoirValleyVoice](https://www.facebook.com/ChoirValleyVoice).

What's On

For latest events, see
cottinghamnews.co.uk

Village Socials, Village Hall, 6pm

11 and 25 September
30 October
27 November



cottinghamandmiddletonvh.com

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

AND **SOUND SENSATION** PRESENT
KETTERING UK

All profits to the church 'new loo' fund

Tickets from cottinghamchurch@gmail.com, 07526 398898

Save the Date

27-29 November, Village Shop
Christmas Craft Sale



Fri 6 Nov, 6.30 for 7pm

Open Mic Night, Village Hall

Open Mic is back! Whether you're a musician, 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.

Sat 21 Nov, 6.30 for 7pm

Fish & Chips Quiz, Village Hall

Village quiz 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 bar will be open serving a range of reasonably priced wines, beer, lager, cider and soft drinks. 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. Net proceeds from the event go towards the cost of improvements to the village hall.

Doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Please book by **Thursday 12th November** by emailing 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

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

info@cottinghamshop.co.uk
cottinghamshop.co.uk

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

Cottingham Crafters, contact
Viv on **07983 395356**.

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