

# Cottingham and Middleton News

December 2012

Available online at [www.cottinghamnews.co.uk](http://www.cottinghamnews.co.uk)



With the festive season nearly upon us, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the newsletter this year.

In particular I'd like to thank my regular contributors and columnists Andy Gilgrist, PCSO Mark Tooley, Pete Bowman and Dryden Phillipson. Thanks also to the Parish Councils for their funding and to Del Robertson, Irene Beadsworth and all the people who help get the newsletter to your door. We couldn't do this without you!

I'd also like to welcome a new guest columnist this month in the shape of Middleton's Pete Smith. I am sure you'll enjoy his inaugural story on page 3.

On the back page, you can find details of all the festive events taking place in the villages to get you in the spirit of things.

And finally, I'd like to wish all villagers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards,

*Jane Smith, Editor*

3 Corby Road, tel 770821, email [jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk](mailto:jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk)

**Next issue: February 2013**



## Ash tree dieback *from Cottingham Tree Warden, Jon Dixon*



As you are probably aware, a large number of ash trees across the UK are falling prey to a serious disease called Chalara Fraxinea. The disease, the spores of which are believed to be dispersed on the wind, causes leaf loss, crown die back and potential total loss of the tree.

As this newsletter goes to print, the disease, which can infect trees in both rural and urban locations, has been identified at 82 sites in the UK. Cottingham and Middleton have significant numbers of ash trees, both juvenile and mature specimens, and you can play your part in helping to combat the spread of this disease.

It is being treated as a quarantine pest under national emergency measures so it's vital that any suspected cases are reported.

Please feel free to contact me on **772363** so I can take a look at the tree and check it for symptoms. You can find more information on the disease and how to spot it on the Forestry Commission's website, [www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara).



## It's a PJ Party!

Children and parents at Cottingham School meet every Saturday morning for Athletics Club. On 10 November, some of the Year 6 girls raised over £50 for Children in Need by running the 2.5km around East Carlton Park in their pyjamas. Well done girls!

## Find it on

**facebook**

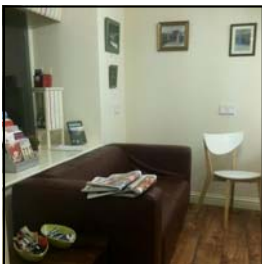
It may not be everyone's cup of tea, but social networking site Facebook can be a great way to get instant updates on what's happening in the villages.

We have our very own 'Cottingham and Middleton' Facebook page, run by villager Andy Puchalski, that includes event reminders, discussion and some fantastic photos from around the villages. To find the page, click on the Facebook icon on the home page of the village website [www.cottinghamnews.co.uk](http://www.cottinghamnews.co.uk).

The Village Store and Café also has a Facebook page that they use to let you know about all their latest lines and offers. Click on the Facebook icon on their website, [www.thevillagestoreandcafe.co.uk](http://www.thevillagestoreandcafe.co.uk)



## Are you making the most of your Village Store and Café?



Did you know that the Village Store and Café is open every day of the week serving delicious cakes, hot snacks and drinks, including Del Robertson's famous home made soup that's made a welcome return for the Winter! The shop also offers cashback and sells newspapers and a wide range of groceries, including wine. There is also free Wi-Fi, a pool table and games for the kids.

For a trial period, the Village Store and Café will be open until 4pm on Sundays, so why not pop in for a bacon roll and a coffee and relax on the new sofa while you read the free Sunday papers?

Or, if you'd prefer to snuggle up at home with a real fire, the shop is now selling 'community logs'. Organised by Cottingham Tree Warden Jon Dixon, the wood has come from local trees and the logs have been cut, split, seasoned and packaged locally. But that's not all, 10% of the sale proceeds from each bag will be donated to the two village churches and the school.

The shop is selling premium hardwood community logs at the moment for £6 a bag, but Jon hopes to introduce kindling and economy mixed wood logs over the Winter.



[www.thevillagestoreandcafe.co.uk](http://www.thevillagestoreandcafe.co.uk)

# Parish Councils

## Cottingham

**Clerk:** Peter Taylor  
01536 761752, 5 Headlands,  
Desborough NN14 2QA

### Next meetings

Wed 2 Jan, 7.30pm

Wed 6 Feb, 7.30pm

[www.cottingham.org.uk](http://www.cottingham.org.uk)

## Middleton

**Clerk:** Justina Medwell  
01536 771234

Middleton House, Middleton,  
LE16 8YU

### Next meetings

Wed 19 Dec, 7.30pm

Wed 16 Jan, 7.30pm

[www.middleton-northants-pc.gov](http://www.middleton-northants-pc.gov)

All meetings are held at the  
Village Hall Annex, next to the  
School.

## Corby Foodbank

With the festive season nearly upon us, spare a thought for local people who may not have enough to eat this Christmas.

Corby Foodbank at the Hope Centre, Princewood Road, Corby relies on donations of non-perishable, in-date food to provide emergency food for people in crisis.

If you or anyone you know could benefit from this service, or if you'd like to donate, get in touch on **01536 737578** or find out more at [corby.foodbank.org.uk](http://corby.foodbank.org.uk).

## Rural Police update

From PCSO Mark Tooley

Next Police surgeries; Tue 4 Dec, 2.30pm, Village Hall Annex (Over 60s), Sat 8 Dec, 11am, Village Store; Sat 22 Dec, 3pm, Village Store



### A message to motorcyclists

Over the past couple of months, persons unknown have made attempts to steal motorbikes and in some instances have been successful. The locations are varied from the industrial estates to the town and out to the villages where larger engine bikes are being targeted.

Please check your bike security and where necessary make improvements to reduce the opportunity of theft. One of the most recent incidents occurred in relation to a bike that had been advertised on the internet. A possible buyer made contact with the seller and made arrangements to come and view it. Needless to say no one arrived and a few days later an attempt was made to steal the bike. Luckily, in this instance the bike had already been sold.

If you need to contact the Police and it's not an emergency, please use the new national number, **101**.

## Cottingham Parish Council news *from Pete Bowman, Chairman*

**War Memorial** - the War Memorial and the area around it was refurbished in time for this year's Remembrance Service. We would like to thank County Councillor Stan Heggs, who very kindly donated the full £1,200 cost from his Empowering Councillors and Communities Fund so the work could be undertaken at no expense to the Parish Councils.

**Grass cutting** - the Parish Council has terminated the existing contract and has appointed a new contractor who will start work in the New Year.

**Wall on Corby Road** - Parish Councillors were on site immediately after part of the wall behind the bus shelter collapsed and have been working hard over the last few weeks to see how we can make the immediate area secure. As we have had no support or help from Corby Borough Council, repairs will have to be undertaken at the Parish Council's expense for the time being.

Our priority is to make the area safe and restore the Royal George's rear emergency exit. We have appointed a contractor who will be on site the week commencing 3 December. While the work is being done, we will be looking into issues of land ownership and responsibility to see if we can claw back some of the repair costs.

**Little Meadow** - you may have had a notification letter about a new planning application for Little Meadow which has been submitted to Corby Borough Council. The detail of this application is identical to the one that was submitted earlier this year. As we understand it, the reason for the resubmission is that the Borough Council has failed in its duty to determine the previous application within a reasonable time.

What this means is that any letters or emails supporting or objecting to the earlier planning application must be sent again to the Borough Council within 21 days of receiving the recent notification letter. Any letters or emails sent previously will not be considered in connection with this new planning application. If you need any more information, please get in touch with **Dean Wishart** at the Borough Council on **01536 464155**, quoting planning reference 12/00382/DPA.

## Middleton Parish Council news *from Dryden Phillipson, Chairman*

**No Cold Calling Zone (NCCZ)** - it's now a year since an NCCZ was introduced for Darescroft, Lightfoot Lane and Cannam Close. We are seeking feedback from residents in the zone to gauge success and, if the results are positive, we may extend the scheme to other parts of the village.

**Speeding** - a recent traffic police speed survey has shown a significant number of vehicles travelling over 55 mph on Ashley Road. The highest speed recorded was 71mph. We have asked the Police to increase surveillance and the data will be presented to the County Council in an attempt to introduce some form of traffic calming. The Parish Council has not ruled out funding traffic calming measures at parish level if necessary.

**Swingler's Path** - the Parish Council is to put up 'No Horse Riding' signs at Swingler's Path, the pedestrian walkway between Darescroft and Glover Court.

**Casual vacancy** - Middleton Parish Council has a vacancy for a councillor. For details, contact Parish Clerk **Justina Medwell** on **771234**, email [clerk@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk).



## A first for the 1sts

by Pete Smith

A very special presentation took place at the 1st Stoke Albany and Wilbarston Cub Scout Troop recently when six Cub Scouts were awarded the Chief Scout's Award for the first time in the troop's history of over 50 years of scouting. This is the highest award a Cub Scout can achieve and local lads Jason Tilley (age 11) of Rockingham Road and Philip Chisholm (age 9) of Ripley Road both received the Silver Chief Scout's Award.

The boys said they were happy, excited and proud to have gained the award, which comprises six

individual activities with specific challenges to be completed. The outdoor challenge was a three day camp involving a variety of activities (including dancing like Ricky Martin on a log apparently!) and was the most enjoyable for the boys. In contrast, the toughest challenge was 'Home Help', because it meant the boys tidying their rooms!

The presentation took place as a special finale to the Scouts' regular weekly meeting and was made by District Commissioner Bob Peden before an audience of parents, scouting officers and local press. Certificates were also presented to boys who completed a 10 kilometre hike organised by the US Air Force at RAF Molesworth. Apparently the Americans were caring and hospitable hosts, with generous sustenance provided for the occasion.

In the light of the Cubs' success under leader Gary Chisholm, a Scout group has recently been formed for boys and girls aged 10.5 to 14, under the experienced charge of Scout Leader Roy Edwards. The Scouts meet on a Wednesday evening (7 to 8.30pm) and Cubs on a Thursday (6.45 to 8.15pm) in the village hall at Wilbarston. Beavers (aged 7 to 8) meet at Stoke Albany Village Hall on Mondays from 7 to 8pm. New members are always most welcome to come along. Please contact **Gary** on **772331** or email **chisholm21@btinternet.com**.



District Commissioner Bob Peden (left) and Cubs Troop Leader Gary Chisholm present the boys with their awards. Jason Tilley is pictured bottom right and Philip Chisholm is on the middle row, second right.

## Tom's incredible journey

When 23 year old Tom Allen set off from Main Street in Middleton to cycle round the world with his friends, they were expecting physical hardship, extreme conditions and a serious case of culture shock. But the hours spent poring over maps and arranging sponsorship could never have prepared them for the experience of life on the road - the petty squabbles, the extreme hospitality, the unexpected joys and dangers. And then Tom met Tenny, a feisty Iranian-Armenian girl with dreams of her own, and hit a crossroads. Should he give up his grand plan for the girl he loves, or cycle off and risk missing out on the greatest adventure of them all?

Well now you can find out, as Tom's story has been made into a 78 minute film, 'Janapar' (Armenian for 'Journey'), produced by the BBC's James Newton. The film premiered at the Raindance Film Festival in London in September and you can buy it on DVD at The Village Store and Café for £14. Janapar, the book written by Tom, will be out in the New Year.



## Harvest event reaps rewards



Villagers filled St Mary Magdalene Church on 6 October for a harvest service, hot supper, entertainment and an auction of home grown and home made produce. The evening raised £760 for Water Aid. Thanks to everyone who came along and helped make the evening a success. For photos and thank yous, see the Photo Gallery on the village website.

## Sid says thanks

Sidney Beecroft would like to thank the residents of Ripley Road who donated £65 to Marie Curie Cancer Care in a house to house collection.

## Wine Safari

This year's Wine Safari raised a fantastic £1,750 for St Mary Magdalene Church. Thanks to Kirsty and David Swallow and the team who organised the event, all the hosts and everyone who came along, supported and helped out at the event.

## Join the WI

The Ashley Welland Valley WI covering Cottingham and Middleton, meets at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of every month in Ashley Village Hall. Each year they have interesting speakers and demonstrations, outings, socials, garden and theatre visits, and walks. You can find a 2013 diary of events on the village website under clubs and groups.

Members come from villages across the valley and the group is eagerly seeking more members. Contact **Wendy Martin** on **0780 119 4560** or email **wendy10ecp@gmail.com**.

## Village fitness classes

JD Health and Fitness are now running a range of fitness classes on Mondays and Saturdays at the Village Hall Annex and Cottingham School. The classes, which include Zumba, Boxercise, Boxaerobics, Ab Attack and Bootcamp, cost £4 each. More information, visit [www.jdhealthandfitness.co.uk](http://www.jdhealthandfitness.co.uk) or call **Jon Dunn** on **0780 530 6956**.

## Getting Quizzical

Village quizzes held over the past few months have raised £414 between them.

Ant Licqourish's 20th anniversary charity quiz raised £271 for the Alzheimer's Society and Del Robertson's second Souper Quiz raised £143 for the Village Hall Annex.

If you like to keep those brain cells working, don't forget that there's a quiz every Sunday evening at the Royal George pub in Cottingham, starting at 8.30pm. It's £1 each to enter and the winning team gets a bottle of wine.



# Christmas What's On

**Note: due to a delay in receiving information for this newsletter, a few of these events may have passed by the time you receive it. To sign up for email notifications, visit the village website and select 'Join village email list'.**

## Church and Carol Services



**Sun 16 Dec, 6pm**

**St Mary Magdalene Church** - Carol service including the Valley Voice choir

**Methodist Church**

Carol service and lessons



**Thur 20 Dec, 7pm**

**Methodist Hall** - Coffee and carols

**Christmas Eve, 11.30pm**

Midnight Mass at St Mary Magdalene, Cottingham



**Christmas Day, 10.30am**

St Leonards Church, Rockingham



**Sun 2 Dec, 2pm to 4pm**

## Advent activity day, Stoke Albany

This joint Advent activity day for Cottingham, Rockingham, East Carlton, Gretton and Stoke Albany churches is open to everyone. Activities range from a quiet prayer walk in the Church to craft activities in the Village Hall, followed by an Advent service at 4.30pm where the 'travelling cribs' will be launched. You are welcome to come along just for the service. Contact **Ruth** on **770178**, email [ruthcolby2@gmail.com](mailto:ruthcolby2@gmail.com).

**Fri 7 Dec, 8pm**

## Desperate Housewives Village Hall Annex

Join the desperate housewives of Cottingham and Middleton for a good natter over a Chinese from Mr Cho. The cost is £7 each, payable a week in advance. Contact **Wendy (771177)**, **Kirsty (771796)**, **Sandra (770184)** or **Sarayou (771342)**. Please bring your own drinks, including alcohol.

**Sat 8 Dec, 8pm**

## Dance, Village Hall Annex

Dancing to ballroom, sequence and modern tunes. Tickets are just £4 and you can bring your own refreshments (including alcohol). Call **Audrey** on **771084** for more details.

**Wed 12 Dec, 9am**

## Xmas party, Cottingham School

Cottingham School is holding a Christmas party for prospective children and parents for September 2013. There will party games, tea and coffee for parents and a party bag for all children. If your child is due to start school in September 2013, why not come along for a fun filled morning. If you would like to come, please call the school on **771391** so they can make sure they have enough party bags.

**Fri 14 Dec, 7pm**

## Valley Voice, Village Hall Annex

Christmas concert from the Valley Voice choir. Tickets are £6 to include a welcoming glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. There will be a pay bar, raffle, Christmas quiz and entertainment in the break. Proceeds will be split between the Valley Voice choir and the Village Hall Annex. For tickets, contact **Joanne Leaning** on **770913**, email [joanne.leaning@btinternet.com](mailto:joanne.leaning@btinternet.com).

**Mon 17 Dec, 2pm**



## Musical Extravaganza Cottingham School

Children from Cottingham and Middleton C of E Primary School will be singing Christmas songs from around the World. members of the community are warmly invited to attend.

**Fri 21 Dec, 7.45pm**



## Xmas carols with Valley Voice

The Valley Voice choir will be out and about on Friday 21 December spreading some Christmas cheer! They'll be singing at East Carlton Cricket Club at around 7.45pm and then at the Royal George in Cottingham at around 9pm.

**Sat 22 Dec, 6pm**



## Xmas singalong Glover Court

This year sees the welcome return of the Christmas singalong around the Obelisk in Glover Court, Middleton. Come along and join in with your favourite Christmas carols and festive songs, backed by local musicians. Song sheets will be provided. Please bring a torch and some sleigh bells if you have them.

**Christmas Eve, 4pm**

## Living Crib Journey

Join Mary and Joseph on their journey through Cottingham and Middleton to the stable for the birth of Christ.



This year, the journey again starts outside the Village Store and Cafe, finishing at Middleton House Farm where there will be refreshments and a charity collection. The route is suitable for push chairs.

Please wrap up warmly and bring a lantern or torch, and you're welcome to dress as nativity characters. For more information, please contact **Ruth Colby** on **770178**.

## Travelling crib, Advent

Organised by St Mary Magdalene Church, three sets of crib figures will be travelling around our villages in search of a place to stay, symbolising Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. If you would like to offer a home for the crib figures for one night in December, please contact **Rachel** on **770766**.

**Sat 1 Dec, 2pm to 4pm**

## Xmas Caper, Cottingham School

There's something for everyone at Cottingham School's Christmas Caper. There are craft stalls including Christmas cards and a 'made in the village' stall, present wrapping, fun and games including a chocolate tombola, wine and water game and skittles, refreshments including mulled wine, hot chocolate and Christmas snacks. Entrance is free.

**Sat 1 Dec, 2pm to 4pm**

## Bazaar, Methodist Church

Come along to the Christmas Bazaar at the Methodist Church on Corby Road for a range of stalls and refreshments.