



Cottingham and Middleton News

February/March 2011

Available online at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the February/March newsletter.

I was down at the Village Hall Annex recently to see the

'Opera Dudes' perform, as part of the Northants Touring Arts (NTA) programme. It's fantastic to have such high quality entertainment right on our doorsteps and for a very reasonable price too. Check out NTA's website at www.northantstouringarts.co.uk for a full list of performances in and around our area.

There have been a few break-ins and thefts in the villages over the past month or so, including the recent theft of the metal planters from the foot of the village sign in Cottingham. Our PCSO Mark Tooley is often around in the villages so, if you have any information about these crimes, or would like to have a chat with him, please call **03000 111 222** or pop along to his next Police surgery at 2.30pm on 1 March (see Mark's article on page 2).

Thanks to Mark, Andy Gilgrist, Steph Brown, the Hub and Trumpet Management Committee, and everyone who has provided news and articles for this issue. Don't forget, if you have any news, especially if you're planning an event, let me know about it as soon as you can (even if details are sketchy) so villagers can get dates in their diaries.

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School banner gets motorists thinking

Students from Cottingham School have been working with local Police and Northants County Council to make the roads outside their school safer.

The Year 6 students got together to design a 2.5m banner asking parents and motorists to park safely near their school.

The banner was produced by Corby-based display specialists Ultima Displays Ltd and is the latest in a series of road safety measures for the school, which have included new railings and new road markings.

PCSO Mark Tooley, who co-ordinated the project, said: "Year 6 were very keen to tell road users that parking outside and around the school must be safe, legal and considerate. Everyone in Year 6 contributed a drawing to the banner to get the message across. The banner looks fantastic and we'd all like to say a big thank you to Mark Newman from Ultima Displays, who very kindly donated the banner for such a good cause."



PCSO Mark Tooley with Cottingham School Year 6 students

Village shop update *from the 'Hub and Trumpet' Management Committee*

"You will see that building work has been completed on the shop and that it is now looking much more attractive. After careful consideration, the management committee has decided that the most appropriate way to operate the 'Hub and Trumpet' is to run it as a separate and newly-formed entity known as an 'Industrial and Provident Society' or 'IPS'. This provides a management structure that is similar to that of a limited company, but the stated aim of an IPS is to trade for the benefit of the community. The emphasis will be on the shop working as a social enterprise on a not-for-profit basis. An application for the creation of an IPS has been made to the Financial Services Authority and is expected to receive approval very soon.

"More details on how the IPS system will work (including the involvement of community stakeholders) will be given once the application process is complete. Work is continuing on various grant applications and the precise opening date depends on the speed and success of these. However, we are certainly making progress."

The Eagle has landed! *by Steph Brown*

As a young boy, Sam Perkins, landlord of the Spread Eagle pub in Cottingham, could remember a striking wooden eagle perched on the bar. Many years passed and, like Sam, the bird flew its nest - it is thought a previous landlord sold the bird to a man in Rothwell. Here he resided, growing old and collecting dust in the owner's garage until a regular customer of the pub asked Sam and Stella if they would like him back.

Now a treasured item, the eagle sits proudly on the bar and it's fair to say the bird has truly come home to roost. The carving is a work of art made from one solid piece of wood, it is thought by a customer as a thank you gift. Sam and Stella are in no doubt that the eagle will be remaining and won't be sitting in a garage any time soon. So, next time you're in the pub, look out for the bird in the corner!



**Next issue
April 2011**

Parish Councils

Cottingham

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

Councillors

Pete Bowman (Chairman)
Clive Ashworth (Vice Chairman)
Irene Beadsworth
Alan Davies
Owen Davison
Geof Hudson
Pam Moore
John Muir
David Swallow

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Annex. Villagers are welcome to attend and share their views.

More information can be found on the Parish Council notice board on the corner of Rockingham Road and School Lane.

Next meetings

Wed 2 March 7.30pm
Wed 6 April, 7.30pm

Middleton

Clerk: Justina Medwell
01536 771234
Middleton House, Middleton,
LE16 8YU

Councillors

Dryden Phillipson (Chairman)
Kay Dickens (Vice Chairman)
Raymond Ainge
Yvonne Alvey
Sarah Brant
Gemma Claypole
Alan Cole

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except August) starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Annex. Villagers are welcome to attend and share their views.

More information can be found on the Parish Council notice board on Main Street, opposite No 34.

Next meetings

Wed 16 March, 7.30pm
Wed 20 April, 7.30pm

Rural Police update

From PCSO Mark Tooley



There were a few burglaries in the village in January. Car keys, vehicles and push bikes were taken from Church Street, Bancroft Road and Ashley Road, a vehicle was also broken into on Church Street and there was an attempted burglary in Stonepit Drive. Can I please remind you to secure your homes and vehicles at all times, leaving car keys and valuables out of sight, even when you are at home. It only takes a second for someone to nip in, steal your keys and be off with your car. If the TV's on, you may not even hear them.

If anyone sees people or vehicles acting suspiciously, please call us on **03000 111 222** and we'll come and have a word. I am looking to set up a Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) scheme in Church Street in the near future. If you would like NHW on your street, please call me on the number shown or email me on mark.tooley@northants.pnn.police.uk

For those of you who have children at Cottingham School and drop your children off on the way to work, could I ask that you please be considerate when parking outside the school? We have received complaints about parking which means we will be randomly outside the school issuing parking tickets to those parking illegally. The Hunting Lodge have said they are happy for their car park to be used during drop off and pick up times, so please take advantage of this.

And finally, just to let you know about a few changes within our Rural Safer Communities Policing team - we now have five PCSOs and three PCs and I will continue to look after the villages of the 'Rural West' ward (Rockingham, Cottingham, Middleton and East Carlton) along with the Earlstree industrial estates, with support from two colleagues, PC Martin Abbott and PC Andy Mclean.

Parish Council elections Thursday 5 May

On Thursday 5 May this year, Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councillors will be up for re-election, and there is the opportunity to stand for election yourself. There are nine places on Cottingham PC and seven in Middleton. Full elections happen every four years and the Parish Council elections take place on the same day as the Borough Council elections. The timetable for nominations and elections is as follows:

Nomination forms available	Fri 25 March
Deadline for nominations	Mon 4 April (12 noon)
Publication of nominees	Wed 6 April

You can get nomination forms from the Elections Office at Corby Borough Council (The Cube) on **01536 464012** and you need to send these back to Corby Borough Council by **12 noon on Monday 4 April**.

If the number of nominations does not exceed the number of Councillors to be elected, no election will be held and the existing Parish Councillors will be automatically elected. For more information on the role of the Parish Councillor, contact your Parish Clerk - contact details and a list of current Parish Councillors are provided on the left.

Next police surgery - Tue 1 March
Village Hall Annex, from 2.30pm

Obituaries

Our thoughts are with the families and friends of the following villagers who sadly passed away in December.



Jack Pearson (1913 - 2010) and his late wife Margaret moved to Middleton in 1985 and quickly immersed themselves in village life. Jack was a keen walker, a stalwart of the Church and also held roles as Tree Warden and Footpath Warden. He leaves his daughter Pat, son Roger and grandchildren Andrew and Helen.

Joyce Stanton (1929 - 2010) was one of 11 children and had lived in Cottingham all her life. She sadly died after a long illness and leaves her daughter Elizabeth, son Robert and families.

Hilda Bradshaw (1918 - 2010) and her late husband Fred lived in Cottingham all their lives and both sang in the Church choir. Hilda worked as a maid at Bury House in her youth. You can read her memories online at www.cottinghamhistory.co.uk (click on 'personal memories'). She leaves her son Colin, daughter Diane and their families, including two great grandchildren.

The Housewives' Choice

By Andy Gilgrist

'Desperate Housewives' is, thankfully, not a name to be taken literally. Only some of them are housewives and, when I was invited along, none of them appeared desperate!

The ladies' supper club Desperate Housewives, which takes its name from the American TV series about the women of Wisteria Lane, is already a firm fixture on the Cottingham/Middleton social calendar.

In the three years since it began in February 2008, the bi-monthly gathering has welcomed hundreds of villagers and their friends. Sixty women attended the first event, and anything between 30 and 60 attend now. And it's a different mix of people each time.

The guiding principles, according to its founders (Wendy Classick, Jan Mears, Sandra Battersby and Kirsty Swallow), are that there is nice food and good company, it's open and welcoming, and it only costs seven quid.

The food is part of the fun of Desperate Housewives. As variety is the spice of life, the menu has included food supplied by the village pubs and by members – the cuisines travelling the culinary world from Italy to India, via Mexico and China. The evening when I sampled the food it was cooked by Sarayou Thomas-George – an amazing selection of Asian dishes. It was fit for royalty, never mind housewives.

The evenings offer a chance to catch up for people who are often too busy with hectic lives to keep in touch the way they used to.

Wendy said: "One of the reasons for me is that my son was growing up and I knew I wouldn't be picking him up from the primary school anymore so would be losing that regular catch up with people at the school gate. It's a way of feeling much more part of village life."

It's very inclusive; there is no guest list – the ladies can bring their friends and family from the villages or beyond. You simply bring a bottle and settle down for a relaxing evening. Jan stressed that it is truly open to all: "You don't have to be part of anything else - you can just come down and join in. It's a chance to meet up with no pressure and just have fun."

The £7 a head covers the food and the hire of the Village Hall Annex, and you bring your own drinks. The next event is at 8pm on Friday 4 March, with lasagne on the menu supplied by the Royal George. If you'd like to go along, please call Wendy (771177), Sandra (770184), Jan (772130) or Kirsty (771796).



Broadband update

Thanks to everyone who voted for the Rockingham Exchange (covering Cottingham, Middleton, East Carlton, Rockingham and Gretton) in BT's Race to Infinity. Unfortunately, we fell short of the minimum 1,000 votes needed to qualify, with 500 votes cast from 1,914 households.

This fairly low level of response would seem to indicate that a privately funded broadband initiative is unlikely to be a viable proposition for the villages. The village broadband project group, headed by Dryden Phillipson, has therefore decided to stop looking into private funding, but will be keeping pressure on government to address this serious disadvantage for our rural community.

Methodist Hall

From 1 March, the Methodist Hall on Corby Road will be increasing their hire charge from £5 an hour to £5.50 to cover increased energy charges etc. To hire the hall, please contact **Joan Jarman** on **771193**.

Guitar lessons

If you've ever fancied learning to play the guitar or bass, or just need to brush up your technique, Rory McDade (Millfield Avenue) is offering individual or group lessons for acoustic and electric guitar, all styles and abilities, starting at just £5 for a half hour lesson. Contact **Rory** on **770277** or visit his website at **guitar-mclessons.co.uk**

Digital TV switchover - from 30 March

TV is going digital in our region from 30 March and, if you haven't switched your TV to digital by then, you may start to lose your TV channels.

If you are aged 75 or over, have lived in a care home for more than 6 months, are registered blind or partially sighted or receive certain disability allowances, you may be eligible for help from the BBC's Digital Switchover Help Scheme. So if you need help, or know of somebody in the villages who may, please contact **Sarah Clarke** at Northants ACRE on **01604 765888**.

It's final!

New Cottingham FC, sponsored by the Royal George, have made it to the final of the Fred Deeley Memorial Trophy after beating Kettering team 'Rising Sun' 3-0 in the semi finals. The final will take place at **10.30am** on **Sunday 3 April**, venue to be confirmed on the team's website **www.clubwebsite.co.uk/newcottinghamfc** shortly. Please come along and support.



What's On

Sun 27 Feb, 7.30pm

Psychic Evening Spread Eagle

Psychic evening at the Spread Eagle with medium Tracey Farrelly. Tickets are £6 from **Stella** on **772038**.

Tue 1 Mar, from 1.30pm

Children's Art Exhibition Cottingham School

Cottingham School are holding an exhibition of children's art from 1.30 - 4pm and from 6 - 8pm. Refreshments will be available and all are welcome.

Wed 2 March, 2.30pm

Community walkabout

Meet Corby Borough Council's Rural Pride Office Suzanne Preston at the Rockingham Road / Ripley Road junction for a walk around Cottingham to discuss issues affecting us. She aims to be joined by a member of the Rural Police Team and a Council warden. Contact **Suzanne** on **463177**.

Fri 4 Mar & 15 April, 8pm

Desperate Housewives Village Hall Annex

Join the desperate housewives of Cottingham and Middleton for a good natter and takeaway. The cost is £7 each, payable a week in advance. Contact **Jan (772130)**, **Kirsty (771796)**, **Wendy (771177)** or **Sandra (770184)**. Bring your own drinks.

Sat 5 Mar & 2 Apr, 7.30pm

Whist drives, VHA

Entrance £2 with proceeds to the Village Hall Annex (VHA). Contact **Pam** on **770022**.

Fri 11 Mar & 1 Apr, 7.30pm

Bingo night, VHA

Eyes down! Free entrance, 10 games are played and bingo cards cost £10 for six books or £5 for three. All proceeds go into the prize fund on the night.

Sat 12 Mar & 16 Apr, 8pm

Dance nights, Village Hall Annex

Dancing to ballroom, sequence and modern tunes. Tickets are £3.50 each and you can bring your own refreshments (including alcohol). Call **Audrey Ashworth** on **771084** for more details.

Fri 8 April, 7.30pm

'Eyes Front' with Isla St Clair, Village Hall Annex



An exciting combination of live performance and film about the effect of music in wartime. Isla is joined by film maker Patrick King who gives a fascinating and humorous behind the

scenes look at the making of award-winning films. A rich mix of song and story with film clips and funny outtakes makes for a light-hearted and entertaining evening.

There will be a pay bar on the night and tickets (price £9) are available from **Irene Beadsworth** on **770059**.

Sat 9 April, 7pm

Charity Quiz, Village Hall Annex



Ant Licquorish's first quiz of 2011 will be in aid of the 'Crazy Hats' breast cancer appeal.

Doors open at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7 each to include a fish or chicken and chip supper. If you want to bring your own food, the entry fee is £3 per person. Bring your own drinks.

If you would like to take part or donate a raffle prize, please contact **Ant** on **771062** or email **quiz-man@tiscali.co.uk**.

Coming soon...

30 Apr - 2 May - Around Corby Walking Festival (see www.aroundcorby.co.uk)

10-12 June - Welland Valley Beer Festival

Fri 15 July - Country and Western music with Hank Wangford, Village Hall Annex

Fri 29 April (Bank Holiday)

Royal Wedding



Plans are afoot to celebrate the marriage of Prince William to Kate Middleton on Friday 29 April

with a village gathering down on the recreation field. Details are yet to be confirmed, but please put the date in your diaries and keep an eye on the village website for more details.

In the evening, local band 'The Cat Came Back' will be playing live at the aptly named 'Royal' George pub. Entrance free.



Sunday 19 June

Gardeners' World, NEC

Diane Cooksley is planning a trip to the Gardeners' World Live / Good Food Show at the Birmingham NEC on Sunday 19 June.

Tickets are £16.15 each and the cost of the coach will depend on the number of people travelling. If you're interested, please contact **Diane** on **771545** or **07761 453418** before the end of March.

Saturday 16 July

School Summer Fayre

Cottingham School and St Mary Magdalene Church are joining forces to organise a Summer Fayre this year on **Saturday 16 July**.

The organisers would like to make it a traditional country Fayre with cream teas, beer tent, barbecue, bunting, cake and vegetable competitions, pony rides and lots of games and stalls. It is to be an event for the whole community and so they would like to invite all of the groups and organisations in the villages to take part by hosting a stall, game or two for their own profit.

Please call **Angela Preston-Jones** on **772297** if you would like a stall (no traders) or if you have any ideas to help make it the best Fayre for miles around and raise lots of funds for our community in the process. Call early, as July will be here before we know it!