



Cottingham and Middleton News

March/April 2017

Available online at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the March issue of the village newsletter.

We're really excited to learn about the Royal George's Grade 2

listing. This popular village pub continues to go from strength to strength under new landlords Kevin and Debbie Gibson, and it's amazing to think that the trees for the beams in the lower lounge were cut down while Henry III was on the throne! The Royal George is the oldest domestic building in the village, built around the same time as the parish church.

It's also great to see some new people coming on board to get behind our village store and café. This is a fantastic resource for the village, so pop in and check out what they have to offer and please take a moment to fill in their questionnaire.

Jane Smith
Editor

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Next issue
May 2017

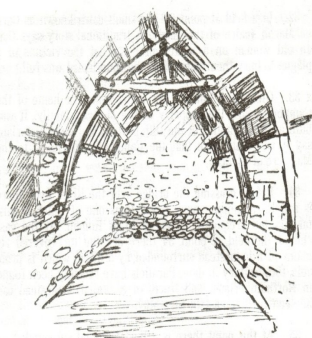
The Royal George – England's oldest pub?

Cottingham's Royal George pub has been added to the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, at Grade 2.

The listing covers the bottom lounge of the pub, which was originally a medieval hall house, along with the middle lounge which was added in the late 18th Century and forms part of the historical development of the building.

The bottom lounge features rare floor to ceiling cruck trusses of particularly high quality, the top of which can still be seen in the loft at the pub (pictured above). Scientific tests have shown that the trees that made these trusses were cut down in 1261/62, with construction having most likely taken place in 1262. This makes the Royal George the earliest known cruck building in England! The beams would originally have been surrounded by walls made of wattle and daub, which will subsequently have been replaced with the ironstone walls that exist to this day.

"We are absolutely delighted to have received this recognition," says landlord Kevin Gibson. "Cottingham is a village with a long history and we are really proud to have part of that history so well preserved at the Royal George. Once we've completed the refurbishment of the top restaurant, we are hoping to make the beams more visible so that people can come and visit, and see the beams for themselves."



Cruck house construction



The restaurant at the Royal George is currently closed for refurbishment, but the pub is still serving food in the bar. They've just launched a new menu too, so pop in and give it a try. More information at theroyalgeorgecottingham.co.uk and Facebook [@theroyalgeorgeincottingham](https://www.facebook.com/theroyalgeorgeincottingham), or call **660505**.

The Village Store & Café

New members have recently been elected to your village shop committee and they'd like to find out what you want from your village shop.

Fill in our questionnaire!

"We realise we can't compete with large stores like Aldi or Tesco, but we can improve and take the shop in the direction you want," says new committee member Alison Southall. "Please take a moment to jot down your suggestions on the enclosed questionnaire and drop it into the shop, or you can complete it online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7BHJX6X. We'd be grateful if you could please let us have your comments by the end of March."

Why not call in to the shop to see all the new produce and craft items they have for sale? You'll be given a warm welcome by the shop's staff and volunteers. And keep an eye on the blackboard outside the shop which is going to be regularly updated with the latest offers, new products and events. You can also follow the shop on Facebook [@cottinghamshop](https://www.facebook.com/cottinghamshop)

Volunteers needed: The shop is also looking for more volunteers who are essential to keep the shop up and running. There are flexible hours to suit, several staff working at all times and, on the days you work, you get 10% off anything you buy in the shop. If you're interested, pop into the shop, call **770097**, or email cottinghamshop@gmail.com

Parish Councils

Cottingham

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

Owen Davison (**Chair**)
Clive Ashworth (**Vice Chair**)
Mike Curtis
Trevor Dicken
David Grayson
John Muir
Tom Russel
George West-Robinson

Next meetings

Tue 7 Mar, 7.30pm
Mon 3 Apr, 7.30pm

Middleton

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

Sarah Brant (**Chair**)
Alan Cole (**Vice Chair**)
Barbara Bradshaw
Kate Cross
Tony Freeman
Gina Hicks
Marie Thomas

Next meetings

Tue 21 Mar, 7.30pm
Tue 18 Apr, 7.30pm

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

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

Peter sets a record



Peter Taylor has become the longest serving clerk on Cottingham Parish Council.

Cottingham Parish Council was established in 1814 and, on 26 February this year, Peter had served an amazing 31 years and 26 days.

Congratulations Peter!

Rural Police update

Finding a tradesman

Leaflets have been pushed through doors in the villages over the past few months offering building work and maintenance services.



Please take care and do some simple checks before choosing a tradesman and letting them into your home. You can use the Government endorsed TrustMark scheme (www.trustmark.org.uk) or the Trading Standards Institute (TSI) Consumer Codes Approval Scheme (www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer) to find a reputable trader in your area – and ask around to see if your friends and neighbours have someone they would recommend.

You can also take a look at independent website www.checkatrade.com. If the trader says they are part of a traders' association, check this is true by going online or calling the traders' association direct. Get a written quote, ask what qualifications the tradesman has, ask what similar jobs they have done previously and make sure you have a telephone number and business address where you can contact them.

Number plate thefts

Vehicles using stolen care number plates can be used in burglaries and other crimes. Any parking or speeding fines incurred may also come back to the car's registered owner. To help protect yourself and your car, park in a garage or, if you need to park outside, in a well lit spot. You can also fix your number plates with security screws, available from high street car accessory retailers, that can't be removed with standard tools. If you notice a car with different number plates on the front and the back, or a number plate missing, please let the Police know using the non-emergency number 101.

Keep your home and belongings safe

In the last newsletter, we reported that a house in Glover Court had been burgled while the owners were at home, with a handbag containing keys etc being stolen. After a similar incident in Corby where the intruders walked in while the homeowners were in watching TV, stole a number of items and made off in the homeowner's car, our local Borough Councillor Bob Rutt has asked us to remind you to keep your doors and windows locked, even when you're sitting in at home, as you may not hear someone coming into your property uninvited.

Police non-emergency number ☎ 101

A messy problem

There have been reports of an increase in dog fouling in Cottingham and Middleton over recent months.

We know that most dog owners act responsibly, but if you're one of the offenders, please clean up after your dog – you can use the general litter bins as well as specific dog waste bins – or take the waste home with you to dispose of.

Villagers, if you spot someone not picking up after their dog, please make a note of the date and time, jot down a description of the dog and its owner and forward the details to Corby Borough Council's Rural Pride Officer **Suzanne Preston** (suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk, telephone **01536 463177**). Suzanne can then notify the Council's Street Clean Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens who can target their patrols appropriately.

If caught, irresponsible dog owners face a fine of £80, which can be reduced to £50 if paid in 10 days, but can go up to £1,000 if the fine isn't paid.

Please also let Suzanne know if there are any particular areas where dog fouling is happening, so they can look into a spraying campaign to raise awareness.

There are free dog waste bags (2 per person) available in the village shop, along with some penalty notices, if you would like to put one up in an affected area.



PC Mark Walker and CPSO Joe Devlin



Cottingham kids hit the high notes at the world's biggest ever school concert

Cottingham C of E Primary School Choir took part in 'Young Voices', the world's biggest ever school concert at Birmingham's Genting Arena recently.

The 16 Key Stage 2 children had been rehearsing hard to learn 11 songs in a range of styles off by heart, including rock, pop, folk and traditional African music, as well as learning dance moves.

On the big day, they met up with their 6,500 fellow 'co-stars' and special guests The Beatbox Collective, Urban Strides, Tabby Callaghan and Natalie Williams. After a three hour rehearsal, it was showtime for a terrific concert that was thoroughly enjoyed by a huge audience of family and friends.

The school's choir leader Louise Willis said: "I knew the children would be blown away when they realised how many other children they'd be joining in with. They were amazed that all these schools had been busy learning the same songs and dance moves as us! The children gave 100%, in rehearsal and for the final concert, and the whole school is so proud of each and every one of them."

The school is now planning for next year's 'Young Voices' concert and the children are already busy recruiting more choir members.



The learning tower of pizza!



70 Key Stage 2 children went along to Frankie and Benny's New York Italian restaurant in Kettering recently to make their own pizzas, as part of a school project looking at food technology and Italy.

As well as making their own pizzas using a range of ingredients, the children got to ask the chefs questions and learn about food hygiene.

Class teacher Philippa Larder said: "The children had a great time and were delighted to be able to sample the fruits of their labours. We'd like to thank all the staff at Frankie and Benny's for making us feel so welcome."

Spread Eagle update

Cottingham Parish Council's application to have the Spread Eagle Public House listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) has regretfully been rejected by Corby Borough Council's Community Right to Bid Panel.

The main reason cited by the Panel for rejection of the application is that there was not enough frequent community activity in the building to demonstrate that this facility was essential for the social wellbeing and social benefit to the local community, saying:

"The Panel agreed that there was not enough evidence to demonstrate the building is being used extensively by the local community. No substantive evidence could be found that showed the closure of the Spread Eagle Public House has led to a significant local community detriment. There are two other alternative public houses and other community facilities locally that could accommodate the small number of community groups that have used this building previously."

You can see a copy of the Borough Council's rejection letter on the village website.

Planning application: A decision on the planning application for change of use of the Spread Eagle is pending. The Borough Council received 24 objections to the application and 1 letter of support.



Village job vacancies

The **Royal George** is looking for a **full time chef** and is offering excellent rates of pay with no split shifts. Contact **Kevin** on **660505**.

The **Village Shop** is looking for a **shop assistant** to join their team. The hours, which can be split between two people, are 7.30am to 10.30am and / or 3pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The salary is £7.50 an hour.

If you're customer focused, hard working, honest and reliable, and would like to find out more, please call **Ali** on **07860 711839** for an initial chat. Retail or catering experience would be preferred, but is not essential as full training will be given.

School charity day



This year's charity day at Cottingham School raised £500 to be split between two charities chosen by the

children – [Cancer Research UK](#) and [Corby Stands with Refugees](#), which aims to bring the people of Corby together to help those affected by the refugee crisis.

Church news

There are still a few numbers available for the St Mary Magdalene 100 Club, with monthly prizes of £100, £50 and £25 to be won.

Proceeds from the 100 Club go towards the maintenance, preservation and improvement of the church. Call **Brad Revell** on **772585** or **Kathryne Tilley** on **770159** for more information.

The Christmas Eve Journey to the Stable was very well attended. Many thanks to all the hosts, everyone who helped out or came along to enjoy this special story. The collection in church raised £89 for Corby Foodbank.

What's on

For latest events, see
www.cottinghamnews.co.uk

Fri 17 Mar, 8pm

Food & Quiz Night, East Carlton Cricket Club



To celebrate St Patrick's Day, this food and quiz will have an Irish theme. Everyone is welcome.

Sun 2 Apr, 12.30pm



Middleton Litter Pick

Organised by Middleton Parish Council, meet at the Orchard on Main Street.

The Cottingham litter pick planned for 5 March was unfortunately postponed due to poor weather conditions. Keep your eye on the village website for a reconvened date.



Wed 5 Apr, 7.30pm

The Wartime housewife

Join the Welland Valley WI at Ashley Village Hall to find out how to feed 50 with one lamb chop! Non members are welcome (£4 each). Contact **Wendy Martin** on 0780 1194560 or email wendy10ecp@gmail.com

Sat 22 Apr, 7.30pm

Bat Out of Hell! East Carlton Cricket Club

An evening of nostalgic rock featuring tracks from Queen, Elvis and Bowie.

Tickets are £7.50 each from **Adele** on 07816 147528.



Yoga classes

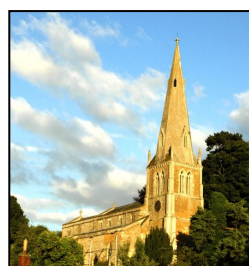
Yoga classes are now taking place at 7.15pm on Wednesdays at East Carlton Cricket Club.

The 45 minute sessions cost £6 and mats are available – just wear something comfortable. Contact **Diane** on 07761 453418 to book your place.

Bank Holiday Monday, 29 May, 10am

Bell ringers to visit St Mary Magdalene

St Mary Magdalene Church will be welcoming a group of bell ringers to Cottingham on May Bank Holiday Monday. The ringers are coming to Cottingham as part of a local tour and will perform a full peal, something we haven't enjoyed in Cottingham since 2007! The ringing will last for approximately 2 hours, 45 minutes.



Sat 29 Apr, 6.30pm

Charity Quiz, Village Hall Annex



Come along to Ant Licquorish's Village Charity Quiz in aid of the Centenary Wing at Kettering General Hospital.

Food is provided if you wish. The cost is £7 per person including food, or £3 if you want to bring your own. There is no bar, so please bring your own drinks.

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Call **Ant** on 771062 or email him at ant_the_quizmaster@btinternet.com

Sun 25 June, 6pm

An evening of sax and song



The Cottingham and Middleton Valley Voice Choir is joining forces with the Alright Jack saxophone quartet to present an enjoyable evening of music.

The local venue is yet to be decided, but please put the date in your diaries. More information coming soon.



The Northamptonshire Association for the Blind (NAB) mobile sight centre will be visiting Corby Town Centre (outside the Cube) from 10am to 1pm on **Friday 17 March, 21 April and 19 May**.

If you or a loved one are experiencing sight loss, join the NAB team on board for advice, information and support.

You can contact NAB on 01604 719193.

Useful Contacts

Northants Police 101

Neighbourhood Management Team (Suzanne Preston) 463177, email suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk

Street Doctor (Northants CC) www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor

Cllr Bob Rutt, Corby Borough Council, 07801 945948 robert.rutt@btconnect.com

Down Your Way correspondent for Northants Telegraph, Del Robertson, 07927 179921, delboy639@gmail.com

Village Store and Café, 770097 facebook.com/cottinghamshop

Village Hall Annex
Audrey Ashworth, 771084

Methodist Hall
Lynette Muir, 770094

St Mary Magdalene Church,
Rev Sian Reading, 770237,
sjmr216@btinternet.com

New Village Hall Trust, Chair, Pete Bowman, pete@cottinghamnews.co.uk

Clubs and Groups

Over 60s Club
Audrey Ashworth, 771084

Cubs and Scouts
Gary Chisholm, 772331

Valley Voice, village choir
Pete Smith, psmith1309@hotmail.co.uk

Rockingham Forest Wheelers
Norman Needham, 771356

New Cottingham FC
Neil Jarman, 07708 323077

Royal George Golf Society
Norman Golding, 771081

East Carlton Cricket Club
Sally Hitches, 01536 771733

East Carlton Health Walking Group
David Grayson, 771837

Obituary: Mabel Bull

Mabel Bull sadly passed away on 11 January, aged 95 years. She had lived in Cottingham for many years, having moved to the village from her native County Durham.

Mabel was very well known and respected, and was a Sunday School teacher in both the Parish and Methodist Church for many years. Mabel leaves her daughter Pam, son David and their families.