



Cottingham and Middleton News

April/May 2009

Available online at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the April/May edition of the village newsletter.

We've got some great news for the villages in this issue. It looks like we're going to get our village shop back after more than three years of closure and, by the time you receive this newsletter, it's likely that work will have started on resurfacing the village's roads.

I'd like to thank both **Joan Jarman**, who has unfortunately had to give up distributing the newsletter after many years' sterling service, and **Terry Mason** who has agreed to pick up the distribution for Bancroft and Ripley Road.

I would also like to thank **Graham Ley** who has written some fantastic articles for the newsletter over the past three years. Unfortunately, Graham's article on page 3 will be his last for a while as he is heading off to Helsinki for a three year posting as political counsellor at the British Embassy. Good luck Graham! If anyone would like to contribute articles for the newsletter, please get in touch with me.

And finally, just to let you know that Pete Bowman and I will be singing/playing with our new acoustic quartet 'The Cat Came Back' at the Royal George on Sun 24 May and Sat 13 June, both starting at 8pm. Catch us if you can!

Regards,

Jane Smith, Editor
3 Corby Road, tel: 770821
Email:
jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk

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June/July 2009

Village Shop to Reopen



Since the village shop closed in December 2005, there has been much concern amongst villagers regarding what would happen with the building and whether we would ever see this valuable village resource re-open.

Well, we're delighted to report that the village shop has now been sold and is set to reopen as a shop and coffee shop.

Read Graham Ley's article on page 3 to find out more.

In the meantime, the Rural Trading mobile shop will continue to visit the villages from Tuesday to Saturday, selling a range of products including bread and cakes, fresh meat, poultry, fruit and vegetables, sandwiches and drinks, dairy products, household essentials, pet food and delicatessen items. A timetable is available on the village website at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk.

Rural Trading accepts all major credit and debit cards and you can place your order in advance (including newspapers), by telephoning **0794 1342794** or emailing ruraltrading@aol.com

Repairs to Village Roads



Both village Parish Councils have been working hard on our behalf to get the village roads sorted out.

As a result, Cottingham and Middleton have been placed at the top of the list for road repairs in East Northants. We are advised that the village roads are due to be resurfaced any time now and that work should be completed within the next couple of weeks.

The resurfacing work will be carried out by a company called May Gurney, highways contractors for Northants County Council.

Tar Damage to cars

We have been contacted by a number of villagers whose cars have been damaged by tar coming off the village roads while they have been in a poor state of repair.

If your car has been damaged, please email insurance@maygurney.co.uk or contact **Richard Woodhouse**, Area Manager, MGWSP Northamptonshire Highways on **01604 889987**.

New Website for Cottingham Parish Council

Cottingham Parish Council has launched a new website at www.cottingham.org.uk where you can find out details of the next meeting and download an agenda. Minutes from previous meetings, profiles of current parish councillors and other items of interest will be added shortly.

If there's anything specific you would like to see on the website, email **Pete Bowman** at pete.bowman@cottingham.org.uk or call him on **770821**.



Parish Councils

Cottingham

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

Councillors

Clive Ashworth (Chairman)
Pete Bowman (Vice Chair)
Irene Beadsworth
Owen Davison
Phil Dyne
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 6 May, 7.30pm
Wed 3 June, 7.30pm

Middleton

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

Councillors

Dryden Phillipson (Chairman)
Kay Dickens (Vice Chair)
Raymond Ainge
Yvonne Alvey
Gemma Claypole
Alan Cole
Janet Robertson

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 20 May, 7.30pm
Wed 17 June, 7.30pm

Rural Police Update

From PCSO Pete Heyward

The current three priorities have been set for the Rural Safer Community Team (SCT). They are:

(1) **Speeding** in the parishes, including Rockingham Road and Corby Road in Cottingham, and Main street and The Hill in Middleton.

(2) **Parking** around the schools in Cottingham, Gretton, Weldon and Stanion.

(3) **Dog fouling** throughout all of the villages.

We're now heading towards the summer months and I'm hoping that this year it will be a hot one for once. But the good weather can sometimes bring out a bit of complacency amongst home owners. Police figures historically show a rise in thefts from sheds and, in particular, lawnmowers and gardening equipment. Also, I know a lot of us are tempted to leave the odd window open and the front door unlocked, but please be extra vigilant as thieves operate both during the day and night and in the towns and villages. Please keep your windows and doors locked and make sure you put your gardening equipment away after you've used it. Don't hesitate to call us if you notice something or someone suspicious, using the 999 number if you deem it necessary.

The Rural SCT and Corby Borough Council are once again working together to carry out a **week of action** when we will be targeting our three priorities and trying to get as many positive results as possible. This will take place from **3 to 9 August 2009**, ending with a Party in the Park fun day on 9 August at East Carlton Park Corby. This will include music, fire service, ambulance, crime prevention, bouncy castle, bucking bronco, face painting and many other stalls for you to enjoy. Please come and join in with the fun. It will be a great day for us all to enjoy and it will all be free.

Regards, Pete



Crime Report



Six crimes have been reported in the villages over the last few months (February to April).

These are one damaged vehicle, one incidence of vandalism on the Hill, Middleton and four separate incidences of break-in/theft to a house, garden, garage and outside store - three in Cottingham and one in Middleton.

Middleton PC Gets Smartwater

Middleton Parish Council has used a £977 grant from the Corby Borough Council Members' Community Leadership Fund to purchase Smartwater Security packs. These will be issued free of charge to Middleton residents joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Smartwater applies a chemical trace, similar to DNA, that forensically marks property and valuables and can be used on anything from lead roofs to jewellery.

For more information, contact **Dryden Phillipson** on **770950** or Ray Ainge on **770125**.

Community Speedwatch

The residents' Community Speedwatch programme, using the hand-held speed gun, will take place in Middleton between 17 May and 28 June. It is expected to take place around the same time in Cottingham.

Volunteers are urgently needed to assist, after attending a two hour police training session being held on 2 May.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Middleton Speedwatch Co-ordinator **Dryden Phillipson** on **770950**. For Cottingham, contact **Michael Curtis** on **771987**. Michael has taken over as Cottingham Speedwatch Co-ordinator from Clive Ashworth.

Rustling

Councillor Bob Rutt has asked us to pass on a warning regarding livestock rustling. We are informed that Norfolk and Warwickshire are experiencing large numbers of animals going missing, including cattle, sheep, pigs and hives of bees. If you are a livestock owner, please be vigilant and contact your local Crime Prevention Officer regarding any security measures required.

Loaves and Fishes

By Graham Ley

Spring is in full flow, and appropriately enough there are signs of fresh life in the village shop, which has been empty and unloved for far too long. The good news is that the premises have finally changed hands, and I recently met the new co-owners, Jeremy Sharman and Jane Gaffney, to hear about their plans for the place.



Pictured (left to right) are: Jeremy Sharman, Jane and Steve Gaffney

Some of you may already have come across Jeremy and Jane's successful project in Gretton, 'Lydia's', which serves as a tea shop, meeting place and much more. For Jeremy and Jane and their respective spouses Fiona and Steve, the most important thing is to nurture a strong sense of community and 'Lydia's' and their new charity shop and youth centre in Kibworth are run as charities rather than profit-making ventures. Any profit made goes to supporting local projects, like the village schools, or a Christian orphanage in India. It's a model they plan to follow in Cottingham and Middleton. For Jane and Jeremy, the point is to supply what each individual community needs and their early soundings suggest that what is missed most here is the shop, so that is what they plan to deliver, along with a coffee shop.

Their centres are generally run by a single paid manager, with other staff working on a voluntary basis. A strong driver in Jeremy and Jane's projects is their Christian faith and in Gretton and Kibworth all the churches are involved, something they hope will be replicated here.

It's still early days and the refurbishment and the planning process will take a while, but that gives Jeremy and Jane a chance to ensure they are setting Loaves and Fishes (their working name for the project) in the right direction. They would love to hear views and ideas from the village and from anyone who would like to get involved in any capacity.

Watch this space for updates on the progress of what sounds like an exciting development which should give a new lease of life to the shop and a good deal more besides for the community.

For more information, contact **Jeremy (770085)**, **Jane (07852 495878)** or, within the village, **Rachel Hudson (770766)**.

Cottingham Parish Plan

We're delighted to report that Cottingham Parish Plan is nearing completion. The Parish Plan and its associated Action Plan formally record villagers' views and aspirations for the future of Cottingham, based on questionnaires completed by almost 400 villagers aged 18 to 93.

The Plan was formally adopted by Cottingham Parish Council at their meeting on 1 April 2009 and will be used to inform public policy and decision making through to 2011. It has taken some time to get the questionnaires analysed, and the Plan completed and approved. However, in the meantime, a number of the issues and concerns identified in the Plan have already been acted upon.

Copies of the Plan will be distributed to Cottingham villagers in the next few weeks and will also be made available on the village website at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk

Middleton Grass Cutting

Middleton Parish Council has appointed a new contractor for grass cutting in 2009. This has brought a big improvement in quality, and feedback is welcome from residents.

Mike Springthorpe

Mike and Kay Springthorpe would like to thank everyone who contributed, bought promises at the recent auction or otherwise donated to the Mike Springthorpe fund.

The auction raised £2,090 and they are overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of everyone.

Mike is hoping to be able to get in a wheelchair in the next few weeks as he has been bedridden for six months.

Contact **Norman** and **Mary Needham** on **771356**, 2 Water Lane, Cottingham, or email **norman@nmneedham.fsnet.co.uk**

Well done Mark and Zoe!

Congratulations to 15-year old **Mark Jefferson** of Ripley Road, Cottingham who has been named Rutland and Lincolnshire 'Young Apprentice of the Year' for motor mechanics.

Mark has been studying car mechanics at Melton Mowbray College on a day release basis from school and is also gaining hands-on experience at Rockingham Cars in Corby.

Congratulations too to his sister **Zoe** who the same week gave birth to a bouncing baby boy 'Archie Andrew'.

Thanks to WRVS

Roy and Pat Harrison of Welland View Road, Cottingham, would like to thank the WRVS for the beautiful plant they sent to them both.

"This is special and it does help to brighten your outlook," says Roy. "I hope that we will be admiring this plant for a long time. A big thank you to you all."

What's On

Sat 25 April, 7.30pm

Renaissance Dance, St Mary's

Come along to St Mary Magdalene Church to see period dance group Rutland Renaissance Dance perform dances from the Renaissance era, all in period dress which will tell us all about during the evening.

Tickets, priced £6 for adults and £4 for children including food and drink, are available from **Ruth Colby** on **770178** and **Mary Freestone** on **771339**.

Sun 3 May, 12 noon to late

Charity Family Day, Royal George



The Royal George are holding a family fun day on Sunday 3 May in aid of motor neurone disease.

Sunday lunch and snacks will be available from 12 noon. There will

also be a quiz and, at 3pm, a three legged race, followed by a disco and live entertainment in the evening.

This event celebrates Mass and Wendy's fifth anniversary at the Royal George.

And, on **Sun 24 May**, Mass will be celebrating his "not quite the big one" birthday, with live music at 8pm from local acoustic quartet 'The Cat Came Back'.

For more information, contact **Mass** or **Wendy** on **771005**.

Sat 16 May, 7.30pm

Quiz Night, Village Hall Annex

Time to get your thinking caps on for the next quiz at the Village Hall Annex which is being set by the last winners, Kay and Mark Dickens, and Richard and Kitty Smith.

There is an entrance fee of £5 per team of four people. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.



Fri 12 to Sun 14 June

7th Welland Valley Beer Festival



The Royal George, Spread Eagle and Red Lion will all be taking part in the CAMRA Welland Valley Beer Festival again this year.

On Saturday, the Red Lion will be serving breakfast from 9am with a BBQ at 12 noon. Food is also available at the Royal George and Spread Eagle as normal. The Welland Valley Stompers will be playing at the Royal George on Saturday afternoon and there will be live music at all three pubs on Saturday evening.

Vintage buses will again be running all day on Saturday. Other pubs taking part are the Castle (Caldecott), Talbot Inn (Gretton), George and Dragon (Seaton), White Swan (Harringworth) and the Marquis of Exeter (Lyddington). Programmes and timetables are available from the pubs.

Sat 13 June, 7.30pm

Seagrave Singers, Village Hall Annex



The Village Hall Management Committee presents an evening with popular ladies choir the Seagrave Singers. Wine and nibbles will be available and tickets are just £6. Call **Audrey Ashworth** on **771084** for more details.

Thursdays, 7.30 to 9.30pm

Dancing at the Village Hall Annex

For just a £1 a time, you can dance the night away at the ballroom and sequence dancing sessions now being held every Thursday at the Village Hall Annex. For more information, contact **Audrey Ashworth** on **771084**, or just come along.

Useful Contacts

Northants Police: **08453 700700**

Neighbourhood Watch
David Robins, **01933 304357**
david.robins@northants.police.uk

Corby BC Noise Officer
Paul Craddock, **400088**

Street Doctor (Northants CC)
0845 601 1113

Cllr Robert Rutt
Corby Borough Council
07801 945948

Cllr Stan Heggs
Northants County Council
01536 202918

Northants ACRE
Mike Oakley, **01604 825889**
Mike.oakley@northantsacre.org.uk

Down Your Way correspondent
for Evening Telegraph
Pete Bowman, **770821**
pete@cottinghamnews.co.uk
3 Corby Road, LE16 8XH

Village Hall Annex
Pam Moore, **770022**

Methodist Hall
Joan Jarman, **771193**

Rev Sian Reading, **770237**
sianreading@tinyonline.co.uk

Clubs and Groups

Over 60s Club
Audrey Ashworth, **771084**

Minerva Group & Whist Drives
Pam Moore, **770022**

WRVS
Sue Jefferson, **771822**

Mums and Tots
Sandra Battersby, **770184**

Cottingham Craft Club
Emma Davies, **771221**

Wesley Guild
Cyril Liqueorish, **771401**

Sunday Clubs - St Mary's
Ruth Colby, **770178**

Breast Cancer Support Network
Judy Evans, **770799**

Rockingham Forest Wheelers
Norman Needham, **771356**

Royal George Golf Society
Norman Golding, **771081**

Blackthorn Wood Pool Team
George Barker, **07904 954040**

East Carlton Cricket Club
Nick Sumpter, **771203**