



Cottingham and Middleton News

December 2007/January 2008

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Welcome to the last newsletter for 2007.

There are lots of events taking place in the villages in the

run up to Christmas to help you get in the festive mood.

The popular living crib journey will be taking place again on Christmas Eve and, to accommodate the increasing numbers, will this year be starting from Reynolds' Farm on Rockingham Road.

There are also plenty of opportunities for you to exercise your vocal cords, including traditional carol services at St Mary's and the Methodist Church, the Red Lion's karaoke competition and a Christmas sing (and play) along being held in Glover Court on the Saturday before Christmas. Don't forget to get in touch with Rob Cross if you play an instrument and would like to join in!

I'd like to say a big thank you to all the people who have sent in stories, supported and helped to distribute the newsletter this year.

And finally, I'd like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2008.



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Next Issue February 2008

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9 February 2008

Deadline for stories:
1 February 2008

Time to Chime

Thanks to generous donations and fundraising in the village, repairs to the steeple at St Mary Magdalene are now complete and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is delighted to announce that there are enough funds remaining to start work on the Church clock.

The internal workings of the clock will be completely overhauled. If funds allow, and subject to consultation with villagers, it's also hoped to restore the hourly strike. If you would like further information on this, please contact any member of the PCC.



Past and present Councillors and Clerks of Middleton Parish Council recently presented Keith Allsop with a silver salver in recognition of his 46 years' service on Middleton Parish Council, most of that time as Chairman.

The new Chairman, Dryden Phillipson, also gave Keith (pictured left) a copy of the Council minutes from 1961 when Keith was first appointed.



PTFA News

Cottingham school's new stage sound and lighting system was put to the test recently for the children's Christmas production of 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'. At just under £3,500, this is the first major project funded by Cottingham School PTFA which has now raised an amazing £6,887 for school funds. This includes £446 from the recent Christmas Caper and £848 from the Craft and Gift Fayre held in November.

The PTFA would like to thank everyone who has helped organise and run events during the year with special thanks to all the people who have come along and shown their support.

Ready, Spready, Cook!



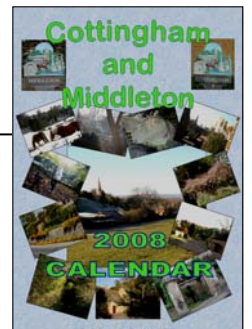
The Spread Eagle has appointed a new chef, Dariusz Swiecki, and has launched a brand new menu.

The Spread also has a packed calendar of entertainment on over the festive period including live music on 15, 21, 22, 24, 26, 29 and 31 December.

For more information, see the blackboard outside the pub or contact **Sam** or **Stella** on **772038**.

2008 Village Calendars

Cottingham and Middleton village calendars are available from **Colin Cramphorn** on **771125**. The calendars cost £5 each and £2 from each calendar will go to St Mary Magdalene Church and Cottingham School.



The **RED** Factor!

During December, the Red Lion in Middleton is hosting 'The Red Factor', a Karaoke competition culminating in a Grand Final on Boxing Day. The next heats are being held at 8pm on Wednesday 12 and 19 December, and budding pop stars are being charged a £5 entry fee which will be donated to the Lakeland's Hospice.

A panel of judges will select four or five winners from each heat to face a sing off at 8pm on Boxing Day, where the contestants will be put to the public vote! The top prize is a two week holiday for six people in a luxury villa in Florida (accommodation only), plus £100 spending money. To find out more, call **Dave** or **Julie** on **771268**.



Christmas What's On



Church and Carol Services

Sunday 16 December, 6pm

St Mary Magdalene: All are welcome to attend this traditional service of carols and readings telling the Christmas story. Children from Cottingham School choir will perform a few of their favourites and the service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Thursday 20 December, 7pm

Methodist Hall: Coffee and carols.



Sunday 23 December

St Mary Magdalene, 11am

Families are invited for fun activities, games, storytime, puzzles, coffee and mince pies.

At 12 noon, Rev Sian Reading will lead a short service to include the blessing of the Church crib.

Families can also bring their own crib sets from home for a Christmas blessing.

Methodist Hall, 3.30pm

Carol Service.



Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

Midnight service at St Peter's, East Carlton.

Christmas Day, 10.30am

Family communion service at St James', Gretton.



Living Crib Journey

Christmas Eve, 4pm



Join Mary and Joseph on their journey through Cottingham and Middleton to the stable. This year, the journey will start at Bill and Anne Reynolds' farmyard on Rockingham Road (opposite Blind Lane), finishing at Middleton House Farm where a collection will be taken for Oxfam. Refreshments will also be available at Middleton Farm courtesy of Justina Medwell.

Please wrap up warmly and bring a lantern or torch, and you're welcome to dress as nativity characters if you like. If arriving by car, please park well away from the route. The barn area and pathways are suitable for pushchairs.

For more details please contact **Ruth Colby** on **770178** or **Ann Sturman** on **771343**.

Charity Auction & Tudor Feast

Royal George, New Year's Eve, 8pm



The Royal George is seeing in the New Year with a Tudor-themed hog and venison roast. Serfs, peasants, kings and queens are all welcome (fancy dress optional!)

At 10pm, the George will also be running a charity auction in aid of Motor Neurone Disease (MND). The George's licensee Wendy Farabella recently lost her grandfather to MND so she's hoping to raise a lot of money for the charity. Wendy's also looking for donations of gifts and services that can be auctioned on the night, so if you've got something you'd like to contribute, please call **Wendy** on **771005**.

Christmas Sing and Play-a-Long

'The Obelisk', Glover Court, Middleton

Saturday 22 December, 6.30pm

Cottingham and Middleton villagers are cordially invited to come along to 'The Obelisk' in Glover Court for a Christmas sing-a-long on the Saturday before Christmas.

The event is being organised by Middleton's Rob Cross who will be leading the horn section! If you play a musical instrument and would like to join in, please contact **Rob** on **07702 932895**, email **rob.cross@dfob.co.uk**

Song sheets will be provided. Please bring a torch and some sleigh bells if you have them. There'll also be mince pies and mulled wine, so come along for some Christmas cheer and what promises to be a fun and enjoyable event!

