



# Cottingham and Middleton News

## Autumn 2020

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

80th  
edition



Little did I know when I wrote the February/March newsletter that it would be more than seven months before

we could get another printed newsletter out to you – but here we are with this, my 80th edition!

We hope you've been able to keep up to speed with the changing situation, and the local help available, through our regular emails, [Facebook](#) and the 'HereToHelp' page on the village website.

Sign up for our regular email news updates at [cottinghamnews.co.uk/e-list](http://cottinghamnews.co.uk/e-list)

Although there is currently some concern nationally about rising infection rates and further lockdowns, we're pleased to say that, at the moment, we are starting to see a return to a new kind of normal in the villages.

The Welland Wanderer bus service is up and running, the Village Hall Annex and Church are back open for socially-distanced meets and our Village Store, the Royal George, Nazz Lounge, Blackthorn Wood Golf Course and the new Blackthorn Café are all open for business.

If you are using any of these establishments and services though, please remember that, whatever your personal views may be, wearing a face covering on public transport and when walking around non-residential buildings is now the law, unless you are exempt. Please think of others, be respectful and, if you feel you can't do that, stay home

Regards,

**Jane Smith, Editor**

3 Corby Road, tel 770821

[jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk](mailto:jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk)

Next issue  
December 2020

### Community matters

The past eight months have been challenging for all of us, but it has also shown the strength of our local community – and the way people have rallied round to support each other has been truly amazing.

A fantastic 72 people volunteered as Neighbourhood Champions to support their neighbours during lockdown. Through this scheme, which drew praise from our local MP Tom Pursglove, we managed to ensure no-one was without food, prescriptions, vital supplies or a chat over the phone, at a time when so many villagers were self-isolating or shielding. This was a great example of villagers pulling together to support each other in a time of adversity. Thanks go to George West-Robinson, Sarah Brant and Rachel Raj for organising this, and to all the volunteers.



We'd also like to recognise our marvellous posties Chris and Mel, Jane Sheldon for collecting for Corby Food Bank and kind hearted Cottingham youngsters Jess and Maisy, both aged 11, who spent lockdown making home-sewn goody bags for key workers at Kettering General Hospital. They are pictured above with Cottingham's Jo Lonsdale, who is a deputy sister on KGH Intensive Care Unit and took the bags in to her hard working team.

### Food, glorious food!

Thanks, too, to the Village Store, Royal George and Nazz Lounge for adapting so well to the new circumstances and keeping us fed and watered! We've also received veg box deliveries from The Land Girls, fresh lamb from Bull Pen Farm and the Hempson-Medwells, visits from the Horsebox Ice Cream company and Awesome Coffee Van and, more recently, Sri Lankan food from the Archchi's pop up takeaway in Middleton.

Farrell's Fish van continues to provide fresh fish from outside the village shop on Wednesdays, Sid's delivery van is due to start visiting us soon and the new Blackthorn Café has opened up at the golf club (see our inside pages for more information).

### Walter Campbell (1929 to 2020)

Walter Campbell sadly passed away on 1 September, aged 91. Walter was well known in the villages, having lived in Middleton most of his life. He worked on the family farm at 21 Main Street with his father Walter Swingler (Swin), and later with his wife Cecile, and also ran a doorstep milk delivery service in the villages for many years.

He leaves two daughters – Jackie and Helen – four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Walter had a full and active life. He leaves many happy memories and a close, loving and growing family who will miss him very much.

You can read Walter's full obituary, and also his fascinating memories of life in Middleton, at [cottinghamnews.co.uk/walter](http://cottinghamnews.co.uk/walter).

Walter was a long standing member of the Cottingham and Middleton Copyholders, a historic charitable trust, and his daughter Jackie now continues that connection as the first female trustee.



# Parish Councils

## Cottingham

**Clerk:** Rachel Raj  
07584 212067,  
6 Church Street, Cottingham  
LE16 8XG, email  
[clerkcottinghampc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkcottinghampc@gmail.com)

David Grayson (Chair)  
George West-Robinson  
(Vice Chair)  
John Adams  
Clive Ashworth  
Mike Curtis  
Owen Davison  
Tom Russel  
Sarayou Thomas-George

### Next meetings

Wed 7 Oct, 7pm  
Wed 4 Nov, 7pm

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

## Middleton

**Clerk:** Justina Medwell  
01536 771232, 5 Main Street,  
Middleton, LE16 8YU, email  
[clerk@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk)

Sarah Brant (Chair)  
Alan Cole (Vice Chair)  
Barbara Bradshaw  
Tony Freeman  
Alison Freestone  
Gina Hicks  
Marie Thomas

### Next meetings

Tue 20 Oct, 7.30pm  
Tue 17 Nov, 7.30pm

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

All meetings are currently taking place online using the Zoom platform. Log-in details are available on the PC websites and noticeboards, or contact your Parish Clerk.

## News in brief

Peter Smith is now officially the Church Governor for Cottingham CofE Primary School.

Ant Licquorish's virtual quiz on 25 April, held during lockdown, raised £110 for charity. Thanks to everyone concerned for their continued support.

## News from our Parish Councils

It's been pretty much business as usual for both our Parish Councils (PCs) since the pandemic hit in March, with meetings taking place online and members of the public, as always, welcome to attend. Here's an update on what they've been up to.

### Sustainability

Joint discussions are ongoing between Cottingham and Middleton PCs and the village Copyholders regarding the future of the Round Close field on Ashley Road. Plans are being developed to plant trees on the land for coppicing in future years, which will improve the biodiversity of the area and enhance the rural landscape.

Middleton PC has also applied to join the Community Resilience Pathfinder Project run by Northants County Council. The project is aimed at developing resilience to deal with flooding resulting from heavy rainfall, offering civil engineering advice and contingency planning support. The PC is waiting to hear whether their application has been successful.

### Planning

Middleton PC co-ordinated submissions to Corby Borough Council with regard to the retrospective planning application for the travellers' site in Ashley Road, which has been rejected.

### Litter

Many residents raised concerns over the summer about groups gathering and leaving large amounts of litter at the Welland River near Occupation Lane, known locally as 'The 22 Foot'. This has been a popular swimming spot for many years, but the volume of litter and the breach of Covid regulations this year have made it more problematic. In addition to regular litter picks, Middleton PC has been in discussion with the farmer and has plans for signage to discourage access to the river from the footpath. The Police have dispersed groups when they have exceeded the Covid regulations.

A community litter pick is not possible this autumn, but some dedicated residents have been collecting litter regularly and we very much appreciate and applaud their efforts. Any adults wishing to collect litter while walking around the village can contact **Gina Hicks** at [m.hicks2@btinternet.com](mailto:m.hicks2@btinternet.com) to borrow litter picking equipment and bags. If you see any fly tipping, please report it to **Corby Borough Council** on **01536 464242**, or complete the [fly tipping report form](#) on their website at [corby.gov.uk](http://corby.gov.uk).

### Agricultural vehicles

As in previous years, Middleton PC wrote to local landowners asking that, wherever possible, they route large agricultural vehicles away from Main Street during harvest as the street is too narrow to accommodate them. With more people working at home this summer and more cars parked on the roadside, this has been particularly important. With a few exceptions, this request has been respected.

### Overhanging gardens

Cottingham Parish Council would like to thank residents of Corby Road who have responded to the Parish Council's request to cut back overhang from their gardens. It looks much tidier and presents the village in a better light, while also allowing pedestrians and mobility scooter users to pass safely. Can any other residents with gardens overhanging the pavements please follow suit and keep the pavements clear.



## Get fresh with Sid's!

Sid's is a new service coming to the villages on Thursday afternoons from 15 October, providing home delivery of locally sourced groceries, fresh fruit and veg from their van, that's kitted out as a vintage shop.

You can order online and book a home delivery, or collect from the van as it comes through the villages. More information is available online at [sidsfruitandveg.co.uk](http://sidsfruitandveg.co.uk) or contact **Bev** on **07870 581990**.



## Update From The Mill

From Chair of Trustees, Pete Bowman

Despite the extreme difficulties of the past few months, the trustees have continued to work hard to keep The Mill project running.

As you'd expect, our fundraising events were put on hold over the summer, but we hope that the village fete and all the other activities we had planned are just temporarily postponed and we aim, if possible, to pick them back up next year.

That's not to say that our team of 'Millers' hasn't been busy doing their bit to help. Wendy Curtis, Diana Sharvill, Chris West-Robinson, Julie Murray and Julie Connachie raised a fantastic £628 selling handmade face masks in the Village Store. And Gerry Henson, Ro Freeman, Chris and George West-Robinson, along with Diana Sharvill, Sue Trengrove and Sarah Brant, also raised a further £383 selling garden pots and home-grown plants.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved for their ongoing support for The Mill.



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

### Construction begins

Elsewhere, our construction team – Mike Curtis, Tony Freeman and Simon Hempson-Medwell – have put in a lot of hard work to meet the first part of our planning and construction programme. This week, a test foundation will be completed, as required by the terms of our planning permission.

Before the Covid outbreak, we'd hoped to get this sorted by the end of August, so we're really pleased that these works have only slipped by a few weeks. It's an important step for the project as it means we'll have demonstrated that 'substantial works' have started before the planning permission expires in August 2021.

### Amazon Smile

If you're an existing Amazon customer, you might like to know we've set up a new [Amazon Smile](#) account for The Mill.

If you buy eligible products through [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk), Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to The Mill.

Simply log in to [smile.amazon.co.uk](http://smile.amazon.co.uk) with your usual details, search for 'The Mill Community Hub' and tick the box to nominate The Mill as your preferred charity (you only need to do this once), then just use the site as normal.

The Amazon Smile site is exactly the same as the regular [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) website with the same products, prices and offers, and you can still see your personal account details, previous orders and so on. We can't see who you are or what you've purchased, so all that stays confidential.

### We're all going on a...Number Hunt!

Developed by Jan and Del Robertson, Liz and Richard Allen from Ali Freestone's original idea, the Number Hunt invites you to take a 45 minute to 1 hour walk around our lovely villages, hunt out numbers in various places and spaces, then add them together. Clue sheets at £1 each will be available from the Village Store for a week over half term, from Friday 23 October. The sheets will include details of where to send your answer, and there are prizes available for the first correct entries out of the hat. Happy hunting!

### Village cookbook

We're still inviting recipe contributions for Del Robertson's village cookbook that we hope to publish next Summer. Please send your original recipes for nibbles and treats, starters, mains, sweets, cakes and drinks to [delboy639@gmail.com](mailto:delboy639@gmail.com).

## New businesses

We've had some new businesses spring up in the villages over the past few months. Take a look at what's on offer.



Blackthorn Café has opened up at the golf course, currently

offering paninis, breakfast rolls, cakes and coffee. You can also book afternoon tea with 24 hours' notice. Contact Nikki Elliott on email [nikki@blackthorncafe.co.uk](mailto:nikki@blackthorncafe.co.uk).



Run by David Swallow from his workshop in Church Street,

Silverwood makes hand-crafted furniture, charcuterie boards and butchers blocks.

[Silverwoodbespoke.com](http://Silverwoodbespoke.com)



Former science teacher Kerry Esgate-Green offers fun £1

practical science kits, equipment hire and SATS / GCSE tutoring through her company Super Scientists.

[Superscientists.co.uk](http://Superscientists.co.uk)



Blossoms Forest Care has been set up in Cottingham by registered child minder Mandy McDade to provide healthy outdoor activities for young children. The

aim is to help them develop while learning about the world around them. Find them on [Facebook](#) or email Mandy on [msmcdade27@gmail.com](mailto:msmcdade27@gmail.com).



Cottingham's Skin & Tonic specialises in skin treatments for men and women including derma planing, skin peels and powder brows. Find them

on [Facebook](#) or call **07501 677343**.



Welland Valley Landscaping, run by Middleton's Pete Smith, offers garden design, transformation and maintenance.

Find them on [Facebook](#) or email [psmith1309@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:psmith1309@hotmail.co.uk).

## Church services

Sun 1 Nov, 6 Dec – 10am



On 6 September, St Mary Magdalene Church opened back up for the first time since lockdown for a short reflective service, where every one of the 30 socially-distanced seats was filled!

The team at the Church say they've had lots of positive feedback and they're now planning to hold a short service on the first Sunday of every month, starting 4 October, for as long as there are people that want to come along. The services will start at 10am and last no longer than 30 minutes.

For more information, please contact **Ann Sturman** on [pandasturman@btinternet.com](mailto:pandasturman@btinternet.com).

## Churchyard working party

Sat 24 Oct, 10am to 12 noon



Many thanks to the 18 volunteers who, armed with rakes, loppers and six petrol strimmers, made great headway clearing the churchyard at the working party held on 26 September.

Volunteers are now invited to a second session to complete the task for the Winter. The aim is to strim right around to the front of the church, and this will be followed by harvest hot dogs and refreshments.

The plan moving forward is to hold two working parties each year in Spring and Autumn. This should go a long way towards keeping our churchyard presentable.

For more information, please contact **Kathryne Tilley** on [randktilley@outlook.com](mailto:randktilley@outlook.com).

## Annex open for bookings



The Village Hall Annex has re-opened for bookings where the number of attendees can be managed in line with government guidance, and where appropriate social distancing can be guaranteed.

The Village Hall Management Committee has put arrangements in place to ensure compliance with Covid regulations. This means that for the time being only the main hall is being let and the kitchen is not available for use. Pilates classes have re-started, as certain activities are exempt from the current 'rule of six'. You can find more information on the [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) website.

## The Village Store & Café

The Village Store and Café is currently open from 8am to 1pm Mon to Sat and 9am to 1pm Sundays. Two customers with face masks can enter the shop at any one time and the cafe is open for two tables of two people at any one time. There is also some outside seating available – weather permitting of course!

The shop would like to say a massive thank you to their staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly during lockdown, David Swallow for stepping in as interim manager and all the villagers who have supported the shop during this period.

As things start to get back to normal, please make sure you continue to support your local store as much as you can. Remember that the shop needs a certain level of trade to continue stocking fresh produce, and your continued support will also ensure they can continue to supply all the essentials and offer the same level of service in the event of a second spike, or even a big snowfall.

The shop committee has four new members – Sue Aspinall, David Bowman, Natalie Ryan and Audrey Teodorini. They join existing committee members Wendy Curtis, Chris Owen and Owen Davison (Chair), Anne Davison has agreed to stay on while the new committee members get settled in and Richard Haigh remains Secretary. Mary Knott has stepped down from the committee after several years' sterling service, but continues to supply the shop with delicious home made preserves.

**Audrey Teodorini** has taken over organising the shop rota and, now that some of the people who stepped in to help during lockdown are back at work, is asking for a few more volunteers. If you can help, even on an ad hoc basis, please contact her on email [audreyteodorini@msn.com](mailto:audreyteodorini@msn.com), telephone **07856 770857**.

## Useful Contacts

Northants Police **101**  
[northants.police.uk/webform/report-crime](http://northants.police.uk/webform/report-crime)

PCSO Joe Devlin [Joseph.Devlin@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Joseph.Devlin@northants.pnn.police.uk)

Rural Neighbourhood Team (Suzanne Preston) **463177**, email [suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.preston@corby.gov.uk)

Corby Neighbourhood Wardens [karen.millsop@corby.gov.uk](mailto:karen.millsop@corby.gov.uk)  
[brian.houston@corby.gov.uk](mailto:brian.houston@corby.gov.uk)

Highways issues, Northants Council  
[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor)

Street lighting, Corby Council, email [customer.first@corby.gov.uk](mailto:customer.first@corby.gov.uk)

Cllr Bob Rutt, Corby Borough Council, **07801 945948**

Cllr Sandra Naden-Horley, Northants County Council, **07944 213860**  
[SaNaden-Horley@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:SaNaden-Horley@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

Down Your Way correspondent for Northants Telegraph, Beth Kilgallon, 8 Stonepit Drive LE16 8XY, **07933 985186**, [bethkilgallon456@hotmail.com](mailto:bethkilgallon456@hotmail.com)

Village Store and Café, **770097**  
[cottinghamshop@gmail.com](mailto:cottinghamshop@gmail.com)  
[cottinghamshop.wordpress.com](http://cottinghamshop.wordpress.com)

Village Hall Annex  
Audrey Ashworth, **771084**  
[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/villagehallannex)

Methodist Hall  
Lynette Muir, **770094**

The Mill Community Hub Chair, Pete Bowman, [pete@cottinghamnews.co.uk](mailto:pete@cottinghamnews.co.uk)  
[www.themillhub.co.uk](http://www.themillhub.co.uk)

## Clubs and Groups

Cubs and Scouts  
Gary Chisholm, **772331**

Valley Voice, village choir  
Pete Smith, [psmith1309@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:psmith1309@hotmail.co.uk)

Rockingham Forest Wheelers  
Norman Needham, **771356**

New Cottingham FC  
Neil Jarman, **07708 323077**

Royal George Golf Society  
Norman Golding, **07768 536344**

East Carlton Cricket Club  
Sally Hitches, **01536 771733**

East Carlton Health Walking Group  
David Grayson, **772565**



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