



Cottingham and Middleton News

July 2021

Available online at cottinghamnews.co.uk



Welcome to the July 2021 newsletter, which is back in print again – hopefully for good this time!

Our team of deliverers will soon be bringing the printed newsletters to your door, and Marie Thomas has kindly agreed to take over from Sarah Brant, organising the distribution for Middleton. I'd like to thank all these volunteers, including Sarah who has committed so much time and effort to the villages, especially Middleton, over the years. We wish her and Sam well in their new home.

Regards,

Jane Smith, Editor

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jane@cottinghamnews.co.uk

Meet the alpacas!

We are delighted to introduce you to Cottingham's newest residents – pictured left to right: Humphrey, Kuzco, Alan, Biscuit and Snowy.

These five adorable alpacas are settling into their new home on Corby Road after villagers Jon and Tracey Hinton, who'd been considering getting some alpacas since a friend bought them an alpaca experience about a year ago, decided to take the plunge.

Jon and Tracey's home directly overlooks the Corby Road field and, when Tom and Mandy McDade offered to rent them a section of it, they decided the time was right – so they went on some husbandry courses, approached a breeder near Milton Keynes and the rest, as they say, is history!

"We've had such a lovely response from villagers since the boys arrived," says Jon. "It's so nice to be able to put a smile on people's faces and, once they're all settled in, we're hoping to find ways for villagers and local schoolchildren to meet and interact with them."

So what about wool? Well the alpacas have just been shorn but next year they will produce around 15kg of fleece! "It's very much a hobby, rather than a commercial venture," said Jon, "but if anyone knows someone who spins and knits, or could make use of the fleece, then please do get in touch."

You can contact Jon by email at jon.hinton7@gmail.com



Next issue
September 2021

WI history walk

Members of the Welland Valley WI were treated to a guided history walk around Cottingham recently. Led by a group of villagers including Jane Smith of cottinghamhistory.co.uk, members learned the history behind some of the village's historical buildings, the Dale and churchyard, while taking in the views along the way. The group also kindly donated £30 to The Mill Community Hub project.



A sign of the times

The Cottingham and Middleton village signs were designed and made by Chris Owen and Sue Hall as part of a set of projects to celebrate the turn of the millennium. After withstanding over 20 years of weather, the wood structure was suffering some degradation and the picture had faded considerably, so Cottingham Parish Council arranged and funded a refurbishment

project. With sterling advice from Chris and Sue, the Cottingham sign has now been painstakingly repainted by Chris West-Robinson to bring back its original vibrant colours, and the wooden structure has been repaired by Mike Curtis and George West-Robinson. Chris is now working on Middleton's sign.

Peasdale Hill planning application, Ashley Road

An appeal for 'non-determination' has been submitted to the Planning Inspector asking that the Peasdale Hill planning application (NC/21/00036/DPA) be allowed to go ahead, based on the fact that North Northants Council did not consider the application within the required eight week period (it was refused at their Development Control Committee on 21 June). The appeal documents are available on the council's [planning portal](#).

All comments made on the original planning application will be forwarded to the Planning Inspector, along with the council's decision notice stating reasons for refusal. If you wish to make further comments, you can do so online at acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk or in writing (you will need to send three copies of your letter) to The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. The appeal reference is **APP/U2805/W/21/3275791** and the deadline for comments is **5 August 2021**.

Middleton RAG members are meeting shortly to plan the next steps. We will keep you informed.

Parish Councils

Cottingham

Clerk: Rachel Raj
07584 212067,
6 Church Street, Cottingham
LE16 8XG, email
clerkcottinghampc@gmail.com

George West-Robinson (Chair)
David Grayson (Vice Chair)
Colin Bates
Mike Curtis
Owen Davison
Terri Mclean-Bowman
Andy Mackie
Sue Morphy
Tom Russel

Next meeting

Wed 1 Sep, 7pm

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

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

Next meeting

Tue 23 Sep, 7.30pm

www.middleton-northants-pc.gov.uk

All meetings are now taking place at the Village Hall Annex, next to the school on Berryfield Road.

News in brief

Work is underway on the A14 and there will be some closures and diversions as a result. You can find weekly updates from Highways England on the village website.

Corby Library is back open, 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday, currently on an appointment basis. Call 0300 126 3000 (option 5, then option 3).

News from our Parish Councils

At their AGM in May, **Cottingham Parish Council** welcomed three new councillors – Colin Bates, Terri Mclean-Bowman, Andy Mackie and Sue Morphy. George West-Robinson has taken over as Chair from David Grayson, who is now Vice Chair.

“We start this year’s council business against a backdrop of issues, changes and challenges,” says George. “These include the new North Northants Council still having a way to go in ‘finding its feet’, unauthorised developments along the Ashley Road, a Borough Council legacy of administrative setback to our Neighbourhood Plan, grass verges being wrecked by car parking, a minority of dog owners not clearing up their mess and several instances of dangerous, irresponsible driving within the village.

“But it’s not all bad. Having lived here for 38 years, I am amazed at the levels of volunteering, neighbourhood caring and community spirit in this special village of ours. From Street Champions running errands for vulnerable and isolating folk, to litter picking and home made poo bag holders on lamp posts, the selfless and kind outnumber the selfish and apathetic by miles.

“Look out for Parish Council (PC) news and updates in the newsletter, on the village and PC websites. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month except August and all residents are welcome to attend our meetings.

“And finally, I’d like to thank David Grayson for his leadership and hands-on hard work as Chair of the Parish Council for the last three years. Now Vice Chair, he will continue to play a vital role in the new team’s plans to meet the challenges and achieve the objectives necessary to ensure the wellbeing of this community.”



Cottingham PC has also bid a fond farewell to their most senior serviceman, Clive Ashworth, who has stepped down from the Parish Council after an amazing 38 years of service, including serving as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chair of the PC Planning Committee. Thank you Clive for your unwavering dedication and commitment to the community over the years. We wish you a long and happy retirement!

Middleton Parish Council has a number of vacancies coming up and is looking for people aged 18 or over, who have lived or worked within three miles of Middleton for over a year, to join them as Parish Councillors. If you fit the bill and would like to contribute to making Middleton a vibrant and cohesive community, you can find out more on the [PC website](#), or why not call Parish Clerk Justina Medwell or Chair Sarah Brant for an informal chat?

Meet your rural policing team

Your local officers in the Corby Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team for Northants Police are PC Brad Wilson and PCSO Chris Asante-Ampaduh.

If you need to report a non-emergency incident to the Police, please call **101** or use the online reporting facility at www.northants.police.uk. For emergencies, call 999 and for less urgent matters, or for reporting suspicious activity, email your local team at NeighbourhoodTeamCorbyTown@northants.pnn.police.uk



PC 820 Brad Wilson



PCSO 7030
Chris Asante-Ampaduh

Del Robertson has been appointed to the new role of Police Liaison Representative (PLR) for Middleton Parish and will be relaying crime stats, incidents etc at Parish Council meetings. This is part of a new scheme being piloted by Northants Police to free up hard pressed officers’ time to enable them to better serve their local community. Tom Russel has been appointed PLR for Cottingham.

“Please never be afraid to contact your local Police, think you are bothering them, or assume that someone else will ‘probably’ report it, and therefore leave it,” said Del. “If incidents aren’t formally reported, this will inevitably lead to less patrols and attention in the area, as it will be deemed that all is well. Your Police are here to serve their community and are keen to engage, so please interact with local officers and keep them informed of issues and matters of interest in your area.”

The Mill Community Hub

**An update from Acting Joint Chairs
George West-Robinson and Sarah Brant**



If you've lived in Cottingham and Middleton during the last couple of years, you'll have heard about 'The Mill' project, and many of you have given time, energy and money to it as event volunteers, fundraisers, workshop brainpower, trustees etc. To all of you we say a huge "thank you and please keep going". If, however, you're new to this community you may be wondering what 'The Mill' is all about! So, let's rewind a bit.

Many years ago, an acre of land on the village recreation ground was set aside and covenanted to be used only for the building of a new village hall for the local community. Ensuing years saw bursts of discussion and the founding of a registered charity.

In the last five years, the Trustees, chaired with drive, commitment and clarity of purpose by Pete Bowman, have put us in the enviable position of having the land, planning permission, 'green light' outcomes from required surveys, some footings in the ground and over £40k in the bank. We have also updated our charitable status to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), appointed a construction project management firm and been assigned a National Lottery field officer.

With Covid, lockdowns and restrictions knocking most of our fundraising plans for six and causing established sources of capital funding to dry up, you might, as they say, 'think it's all over'. But not by a long chalk! The ingenuity and generosity of villagers have seen funds raised by makers, bakers, walkers, donators, sellers, growers and many other creative and community minded people. Most recently, our two attic sales held in the Middleton Orchard have raised a total of £1,712! Thanks to everyone who came along to these events, donated and purchased items.



So, be assured, **we will build The Mill**. We thank Pete, who has stepped down from the Chair and retired as a Trustee, and Tony Freeman who also retires from the Board. They will be greatly missed. However, the prospect of restrictions easing and economic recovery, combined with exciting new ideas and opportunities to raise funds, gives us much hope and renewed resolve.

To find out more, keep updated and share your ideas, go to themillhub.co.uk



Carolynn walks it !

Cottingham CofE Primary School administrator Carolynn Southcombe has walked 100 miles to raise £1,405 – that's £1,264 for the school's outdoor learning area and the rest for [Breast Cancer Now](#). Carolynn has raised a further £600 for the breast cancer charity through her Facebook page, making a total donation of £740.

Cottingham School Head Teacher Ashley Scott said: "For one person to raise so much is an amazing achievement and the Cottingham CofE community was, as always, pleased to support such a charity event, in line with our vision to 'serve our local community'. The money raised will support a super charity as well as providing further learning resources for the pupils. A huge thank you to Mrs Southcombe and everyone who supported her."

Carolynn walked the last few miles with all the children and was cheered on by parents, children and staff. "It was a lovely way to end the challenge," she said. "Mr Scott even cleaned my boots afterwards – they were very dirty!"

Guitar lessons

Josh McDonald of High Street, Cottingham is offering guitar lessons, and the first hours is free! To find out more, look him up on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or email him at [josh.mcdonald7532@gmail](mailto:josh.mcdonald7532@gmail.com)

William Riddell Trust

If you're aged under 25 for the 2021/22 academic year and you live in Middleton, you may be eligible for a grant.

William Riddell founded his trust in the 1700s to provide assistance towards the educational costs associated with learning a trade, profession or attending higher education after leaving school.

If you'd like to apply for a grant, please write to the Clerk Richard Bamford at 46 Main Street, Middleton, Market Harborough LE16 8YU, giving your date of birth, address, details of the course and how you would use the grant. The deadline for applications is 1 September 2021 and the trustees will write to successful applicants after they've met in September.

The Cottingham Stack



Cottingham based music project 'the arthur park' has teamed up with Corby's Chuck The Poet to record his poem 'The Cottingham Stack', about a rather rickety old chimney on Corby Road that's taking its place in local folklore and even has its own [Facebook page!](#)

The track is available for download on the arthur park's Bandcamp page at thearthurpark.bandcamp.com for just £1. All proceeds will go to [Corby Foodbank](#).

Great Crested Newts



The recent ecological survey commissioned by Middleton RAG identified four protected great crested newts, 18 smooth newts and a number of rare, endangered bat and bird species in ponds and fields on Ashley Road. See the [village website](#) for more information, and thanks to everyone who donated to the campaign.

Get fresh with Sid's!

Sid's delivery van is back visiting us on Thursdays for locally sourced groceries, fresh fruit and veg. They also do home deliveries. Find out more at sidsfruitandveg.co.uk or call Bev and Pete on **07870 581990**.



The Village Store & Café

A message from the Shop Management Committee

We would like to thank our employees and volunteers for all their hard work, and our customers for their loyal support throughout the pandemic. We are pleased that, with two small council grants, we have managed to balance our books, to keep the shop open, to repair hazardous flooring and partially redecorate.

We are now looking to the future and ways to maintain the shop as a valuable asset for the villages. We still do not have enough volunteers to open the shop in the afternoons, including lunchtimes and, As food and drink sales represent a major part of our income, the currently reduced hours do present a threat to our sustainability.

This is a community shop, owned by the community and run for the benefit of the community, not for profit. We struggle to afford more paid staff so, to keep the shop open for longer hours without increasing overheads, we need more volunteers to join us. If you feel able to give support as a volunteer, please let us know. You can leave your details at the shop and we'll contact you. This support can be very flexible and every hour counts. No special skills or experience are required to volunteer – we are just looking for adults of any age who are friendly and helpful, including young adults who wish to gain experience to add to their CV. Our volunteers gain skills and benefit from the social interaction with others in a supportive environment.

If you aren't able to volunteer, then please try to buy something from the shop on a regular basis. Our locally sourced Joseph Morris sausages, bacon and other meat products are hard to beat. We have all your essentials in stock and you can also order artisan breads from Hambleton Bakery. Thank you.

In memory

Since the last newsletter, we've bid a fond farewell to some of our village ladies who have been the heart and soul of our community over the years. We remember them here. You can find more about these lovely ladies on the village website.



Cynthia 'Joy' Martin passed away on 6 Feb 2021, aged 89. Wife to the late Harry Martin and mother to Stephen, Andrew and Cindy, Joy was a homemaker who loved looking after her family and, at harvest time, earned pin money by picking potatoes!

Lilian Lawson passed away peacefully at home on 7 Jan 2021, aged 88. She was a loving wife to the late Parish Councillor Eric Lawson of Church Street, Cottingham. Mother to Celia, William and David. Grandmother to Carrie, Elizabeth, James, Katie, Emma and Hannah. Great grandmother to Evelyn, Rayna, Olivia and Maeva.

Gill Hammond passed away on 5 Oct 2020, aged 86. Married to Jim, Gill was village postmistress for many years and also ran the ladies club. She had recently moved back to her native Lincolnshire, from her home in Bury Close, to be near family. She passed away peacefully after a brief heart episode on the day of her 64th wedding anniversary.

Pam King (nee Jarman) passed away on 28 April 2020. Cottingham born and bred, Pam and husband Don raised their two daughters, Mandy and Alison, in Berryfield Road. She worked at the Cottingham Closers shoe factory on Rockingham Road, cooked at The Spread Eagle for 12 years and was a regular at the Church and Chapel.



Pictured (left to right) are Joy, Lilian (with Eric), Gill and Pam

Useful Contacts

Northants Police **101**
www.northants.police.uk
PC 820 Brad Wilson, PCSO 7030
Chris Asante-Ampaduh
NeighbourhoodTeamCorbyTown@northants.pnn.police.uk

Safer Corby Partnerships Officer
Suzanne Preston, **463177**, suzanne.preston@northnorthants.gov.uk

Corby Neighbourhood Wardens
karen.millsop@northnorthants.gov.uk
brian.houston@northnorthants.gov.uk

Highways issues, Northants Council
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor

Street lighting, North Northants Council, customerfirst.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk

Cllr David Sims, North Northants Council, **07966 221591**, david.sims@northnorthants.gov.uk

Village Store and Café, **770097**
cottinghamshop@gmail.com
cottinghamshop.wordpress.com

Village Hall Annex
Audrey Ashworth, **771084**
[Facebook](#)

The Mill Community Hub
George West-Robinson
george@themillhub.co.uk

Clubs and Groups

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, **07768 536344**

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

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



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Join village email list at cottinghamnews.co.uk/e-list



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Middleton
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