



Cottingham and Middleton News

December 2009

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Memorial bench

A bench has been erected on the corner of Ripley and Rockingham Road in memory of **Gordon and Judy Evans**. Gordon and Judy lived in Bancroft Road, Cottingham for nearly 20 years and are fondly remembered by their friends and family.

Methodist Services

Sunday services at the Methodist Church will start at 3.30pm during the winter, and until further notice.

What a Ball!

The ball held at the Hunting Lodge on 23 October was a huge success raising a fantastic £5,500 for breast and prostate cancer charities. Thanks go to the 79 people who attended and to everyone who contributed to the auction of promises and helped out with event.

£3k for 3 Peaks

David Love would like to thank the 'Ramblers' and everyone who sponsored him for his recent 3 Peaks Challenge which raised more than £3,000 for Kettering General Hospital A&E department.

Cat found

Does anyone own a large grey tom cat that has been around Hill House, Middleton for several months? If you know who he may belong to, please contact **Kay Dickens** on **771067**.



Merry Christmas and a happy new year everybody, and thanks to everyone who has contributed to and helped to distribute the newsletter this year.

Jane Smith, Editor

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Ramblers come of age!

By Andy Gilgrist

They've quaffed more than 200 barrels of beer, munched their way through more than 100 curries, Chinese banquets and fine English fare, plus the odd chilli. And they have heard, told and even laughed at some of the worst jokes known to man.

It must be a winning recipe, because the Ramblers – Cottingham and Middleton's monthly gathering of men and real ale – has chalked up its first 10 years. The passing of the decade was marked with a party and a beer brewed specially for the occasion.

Fittingly, the 10th anniversary gathering was at the home of Charles Freestone (pictured above). Ramblers congregate at a different member's house each fourth Wednesday of the month and Charles was one of the founding 'disciples' of Ramblers – 12 men of usually sound judgment. Six of the original dozen Ramblers were at the 10th party, including Simon Medwell who was announced as the 'genius' who founded the phenomenon.

A barrel-shaped cake was fittingly decorated and two beers by the Langton Brewery were sampled. The main beer, in two barrels, called God's Gift and a three-word name which included the words 'Old' and 'Rambling', went down well and has also been bottled and distributed around the villages. Don't be surprised to see them crop up as Christmas presents from your Rambling neighbours!

Ramblers has remained remarkably strong as a group, despite regulars moving away over the years. Its continued success is testament to the hard work put in by key members and to the positive role it plays in welcoming men who move to the villages.

If you want to quickly feel part of village life, any man (new or old) is invited to come along to Ramblers and sample both the beer and the good company. The ladies, in response, have their own version, called 'Sweets'.

If you fancy attending Ramblers, email **Kevin Tyler** at kytyler@hotmail.com or call him on **770670**. The first Ramblers of the New Year is on 27 January.



Farewell Luke!

Luke Whitney, Head Teacher at Cottingham School for more than seven years, is leaving the at the end of the year to take up an appointment as Executive Head Teacher of two primary schools in Lincolnshire. Luke has made an outstanding contribution to our village school and a glowing OFSTED report in 2008 showed just how much he and his team of staff have achieved. Luke will be greatly missed, but he leaves behind a happy and vibrant school in the capable hands of Erica Biddle (Deputy Head Teacher), who will become Acting Head Teacher from January. Pupils, parents, governors and staff all wish Luke the very best of luck in his new role.



Crime Report

Four crimes have been reported in the villages over the last few months (8 Sep to 28 Nov), separate thefts from an outside driveway, lean-to, garden and barn.



New Cottingham FC

New Cottingham FC are finding their feet (well, boots!) with a few wins under their belts. They recently won three games to progress to the last 16 in the Northants FA trophy but were unfortunately knocked out last week in a 2-1 defeat to Corby Forest. To keep up to date with the team, visit their new website at www.clubwebsite.co.uk/newcottinghamfc/



Christmas What's On

Church and Carol Services

Sunday 6 December, 6pm

St Mary Magdalene: Advent carols and readings

Thursday 17 December

2.30pm - Cottingham School: Join the children for community singing around the Christmas tree.

7pm - Methodist Hall: Coffee and carols.

Friday 18 December, 2 to 2.50pm

St Mary's - Christmas worship with pupils from Cottingham School, including the Nativity that will be led by the Reception year.

Sunday 20 December, 3.30pm

Methodist Church: Carol Service



Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

Midnight service at St James', Gretton

Christmas Day, 10.30am

Communion service at St Peter's, East Carlton

Sunday 3 January 2010, 4pm

St Marys: Christingle Service raising money for the Children's Society.

Fri 4 Dec, 8pm

Desperate Housewives, Village Hall Annex

Join the desperate housewives of Cottingham and Middleton for a good natter over a take-away meal. The cost is £6 each, payable a week in advance.

Contact **Jan (772130)**, **Kirsty (771796)**, **Wendy (771177)** or **Sandra (770184)**. Please bring your own drinks, including alcohol.

Sat 5 Dec, 1-4pm

Christmas Crafts, St Mary Magdalene

Come along to the Church for Christmas crafts, homemade cakes, tombola, afternoon teas, children's games, books and bric-a-brac. All money raised will go towards the Church restoration fund.

Mon 7 Dec, 2pm

Christmas Play, Cottingham School

Come along to the School for the dress rehearsal of the School play, 'Joseph'. All villagers welcome.

Sat 12 December, 8pm

Christmas Dance, Village Hall Annex

Dancing to ballroom, sequence and modern tunes. Tickets are just £4 and you can bring your own refreshments (including alcohol). Call **Audrey Ashworth** on **771084** for more details.

Fri 18 Dec, 7.30pm

Seagrave Singers, Village Hall Annex

Enjoy an evening of Christmas music with popular ladies' choir, the Seagrave Singers. There will be a bar with drinks and nibbles. For tickets, priced £4, call **Audrey** on **771084** or **Irene** on **770059**.



Christmas Sing-along

The Obelisk, Glover Court

Sun 20 Dec, 6.00pm

Cottingham and Middleton villagers are invited to come along to 'The Obelisk' in Glover Court for a Christmas sing-along, backed by local musicians. Song sheets will be provided. Please bring a torch and some sleigh bells if you have them. There'll also be mince pies, mulled wine and a collection for BBC Children in Need. For more information, contact **Rob Cross** on **07702 932895**, email **rob.cross@dfob.co.uk**.



Living Crib Journey

Christmas Eve, 4pm

Join Mary and Joseph on their journey through Cottingham and Middleton to the stable for the birth of Christ, with carols, prayers and inn visits on the way. The journey starts outside St Mary Magdalene Church, finishing at Middleton House Farm where there will be refreshments and a charity collection. The route is suitable for push chairs.

Please wrap up warmly and bring a lantern or torch, and you're welcome to dress as nativity characters. For more information, please contact **Ruth Colby** on **770178**.

Fri 22 Jan, 7.30pm

Film Night, Village Hall Annex

'**Last Chance Harvey**' (cert 12A) starring **Dustin Hoffman** and **Emma Thompson**



Presented as part of the Rockingham Forest Village Cinema Project, come along to the village hall annex to enjoy a movie with your family, friends and neighbours, without the long drive! For more information and tickets at just £5, please contact **Mike Curtis** on **771987** or **Audrey Ashworth** on **771084**. You can also buy tickets on the door.