



Cottingham and Middleton News

February/March 2006

Available online at www.cottinghamnews.co.uk and www.middletonnews.co.uk



Welcome to the first village newsletter for 2006.

The main news at the moment has got to be the

closure of the village shop and post office. It's come as quite a shock, but it really is great to see so many villagers pulling together to find a solution and help each other out while the shop remains closed.

This issue of the newsletter includes a feature on some of the sporting activities taking place in and around the village, from golf and snooker to 'Kick Fit' and Pilates. So if you're still looking to get fit or lose a few pounds after the Christmas excesses, now's your chance! See page 3 for more details.

Work on the Cottingham Parish Plan is continuing with an action plan currently being drafted for further discussion with Cottingham Parish Council. We'll bring you more news in the next issue.

Finally, our thoughts and sincere condolences go to the families and friends of Mabel Adams, Ethel Jackson and Norah Walker who have all sadly passed away over the past couple of months. We're pleased to include a few memories on the back page.

Yours,

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**Next Issue
April/May 2006**

Issue date:
8 April 2006

Deadline for stories:
31 March 2006

Villagers Join Forces in face of Shop Closure

Villagers are rallying together following the recent closure of the village shop and post office.

The shop is an invaluable resource for villagers in Cottingham, Middleton and East Carlton, and Cottingham Parish Council Clerk, Peter Taylor, is leading a cross-village working party that is looking to find a solution to the closure as soon as possible.

The working party, which includes representatives from the Post Office, Northants ACRE and local councillor Bob Rutt, is in active liaison with the shop's current proprietor.

A number of possible solutions to the closure have been discussed, including re-opening the shop on a temporary 'village co-operative' basis, but no action can really be taken until the intentions of the current proprietor are made known. However, the good news is that there has been a lot of interest shown in taking over the shop and post office, not only from the surrounding area, but nationally as well.

An official notice for the vacancy of sub-postmaster has been advertised (see the Parish Council notice boards) and anyone who'd like to register their interest should call Post Office Agency Recruitment on **0845 6016260**. Anyone interested in taking over the shop should contact **Peter Taylor** on **01536 262984** (daytime) or **01536 761752** (evenings).

Free Shopping and Bread Delivery



Whilst the shop is closed, villagers **Rachel Hudson** and **Denise McElwain** have offered to provide a free shopping service for villagers in Cottingham and Middleton who are unable to get to the shops themselves. They plan to make one trip to Asda every Thursday so if you'd like to take them up on this offer, call **Rachel** on **770766** or **Denise** on **771374**.

Also, **Jan Sturman** on Blind Lane is offering to run a bread delivery service for Cottingham and Middleton villagers. Jan already sells bread alongside her award-winning pickles and preserves on her stall at Rothwell's Monday market and she's willing to order and deliver bread to villagers on Mondays if enough people are interested. If you'd like to take **Jan** up on this offer, give her a call on **771713**.



Newspaper Delivery

The **Evening Telegraph** has put a couple of delivery teams on standby to make sure you can still get your local paper. If you'd like to know more about ET deliveries, call the sales office on **01536 506178**. The ET is also still on the lookout for a few more youngsters to help deliver newspapers in the villages. If you're interested, call **Sam** at the ET on **01536 506184**.

Regular updates on the shop and post office will be provided in the 'Down Your Way' column in Saturday's Evening Telegraph and on the village websites, www.cottinghamnews.co.uk and www.middletonnews.co.uk