

# Friends of Cottingley Town Hall

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 9

August 2003

*Special points of interest:*

- \* This & That
- \* The Shape of Things
- \* Heritage Day
- \* Sponsors
- \* Showpiece
- \* Calendar of Events
- \* Useful addresses
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- \* From the Archives

# This & THAT



The faults in the grant work have now been rectified and quotations for renewal of 4 gallery windows in antique toughened glass, outside painting of window frames and 5 doors totalling £6536 have been accepted. The majority of this amount we can claim back from the Lottery Grant, and this will finalise their support of the work.

Windows have now been replaced and the other painting work in in hand.

The garden has been revitalised by volunteers from Yorkshire Water under the Business in the Community Scheme and is looking very tidy.

The outside would now benefit from new gates, but this will have to wait as it cannot be considered as a priority.

Ramps at the Church entrance, and a disabled toilet is required in the upstairs rooms. Because the building is listed, planning permission is required for the construction of a ramp.

Quotations are awaited for heating systems to be replaced and it is hoped that a system can be in place before winter. As suggested, a visit was made to Harden Church to look at their heating system.

Unfortunately a similar system is not suitable for Cottingley Town Hall.

The Institute has been decorated as well as the kitchen and toilets. Thanks are given to those willing helpers who cleaned and decorated on the day the garden was restored. (I understand that work commenced at 9 am and did not finish until after 7 pm on that day—such was the dedication shown by the workers.)

The wet outside wall near the steps needs further investigation. The belief is that it is an underground spring. It may be that a gully is the answer. Also a gate across the top of the steps would add to public safety.

New seating (chairs) for the Church have been costed, but at £60 each they will have to wait.

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Thanks to Malcolm and Mary Skidmore for opening their house and grounds for a garden party in July which raised over £300 for the funds.

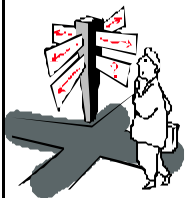
MEMBERSHIP  
2  
2  
5

## The Shape of Things to Come

Once again we have asked the local authority for a directional sign indicating where the Cottingley Town Hall is situated. This time we have had a positive response and it is



hoped that a brown and white tourist directional sign on Cottingley New Road, at its junction with Main Street will be erected before 13th September, 2003—Heritage Day.



**Persistence Pays!!!!**

## HERITAGE DAY

Saturday  
13th September 2003  
10 am to 4 pm

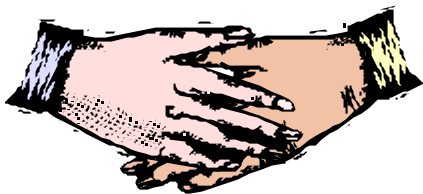
This yearly event is here again  
What have we got in store for you this  
time?

1. Building open for you to wander round, ask questions, see what has been done (and what is still to do).
2. Bring your antiques, collectables, to be valued during the morning by Andrew McLaughlin and Malcolm Skidmore
3. Place any item you wish to sell in the auction which will take place starting at 2 pm. (Small commission for Church funds)
4. Exhibitions of photographs old and new, press cuttings, anything to do with Cottingley, its history and of course the Cottingley fairies.
5. Musical entertainment as you wander round.
6. Refreshments and light lunches.

## SPONSORS

Cottingley Hall Nursing Home has decided that Cottingley Town Hall will be the charity they support this year with their fundraising efforts.

We are most grateful for their support and hope that we can forge a closer liaison between the Nursing Home and the local population.



## SHOWPIECE

Slowly but surely we are getting there. Bit by bit the improvements inside the building are being made. As funds become available they are used for the most essential needs of the building. Now the Lottery money is spent on items agreed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, any money we receive from events, sponsors, gifts can be allocated to our priorities. So please keep up the good work. **One day, hopefully in the not too distant future, we will have a building of which our ancestors and the coming generations will be proud.**

**Yes!**

***With your help we can***

## Calendar of Events For 2003

Every Monday morning (excluding Bank Holidays) the Drop In is open from 10 am to 1 pm.



**18th October** Autumn Fayre  
2pm—4pm Christmas Goods on sale.

**7th December**—Hall Royd Band  
Carol Concert 6.30 pm

**14th December**—3 Churches  
Advent Service at the Town Hall  
at 4pm

**21st December**—Carol Service  
10.30 am

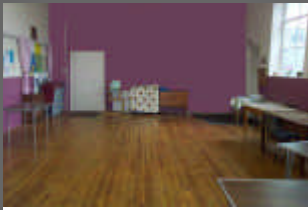
## Useful Addresses

### Chairman of the Trustees:

Mrs. Hilary Tillie,  
Quebec Cottage,  
Main Street  
Cottingley, Bingley, BD16 1SU  
Tel: 01274 510173

### Town Hall Website:

<http://mysite.freeseerve.com/cottingleytownhall>  
**Cottingley Connect Website**  
[www.mkrupa.freeseerve.co.uk](http://www.mkrupa.freeseerve.co.uk)



**BOOKING OF  
ROOMS for Parties/  
Events**

**£10 per hour**  
Facilities include kitchen,  
toilets, gas heating, tables,  
chairs, crockery.



**TELEPHONE Christine 01274 562375**

## **From the Archives**

### **The Smithy that became a Sunday School**

Anyone making a tour of the village of Cottingley today can see for himself that the Cottingley of a hundred years ago must have been a much smaller place. The old houses cluster about the foot of the village or range themselves now on this side and now on that of the Main Street, which led in those days to the Old Hall that stood at the top of the village. There were three houses of distinction in 1815. There was the Old Hall which dated from 1659 and belonged to the Ferrands of St. Ives. This was pulled down in 1872 but we have a reminiscence of it in the "Old Hall Well". Then there was the Grange, erected in 1671, the home of the Hollings family, with its pleasant garden sloping down to the beck and looking across to the ancient hostelry known as the Sun Inn. This inn stood on the old Coach Road and near it was the Smithy, which in 1815 became the Sunday School.

It was towards the end of 1814 and in the early months of 1815 that those noble pioneers rented the Smithy at the foot of the village from Joseph Hollings esquire, of Whetley Hall, in the parish of Bradford, and vested its management in a committee. They built better than they knew, but so careless were they of fame that they have not even left their names on record for us to honour..

The school was to be conducted "on a liberal plan". There were to be no narrow tests  
Minutes of that time stated:

"The Committee shall permit and suffer the children of parents of every denomination, sect and party to assemble in the said schoolroom for the purpose of instruction by such teachers as shall be willing to labour gratuitously".

"The said teachers shall be persons of good moral character, and shall not be objected to on account of his or her or their faith or principles."



**The Old School**

Extract from Mr. Ellis  
Heaton's book of 1914