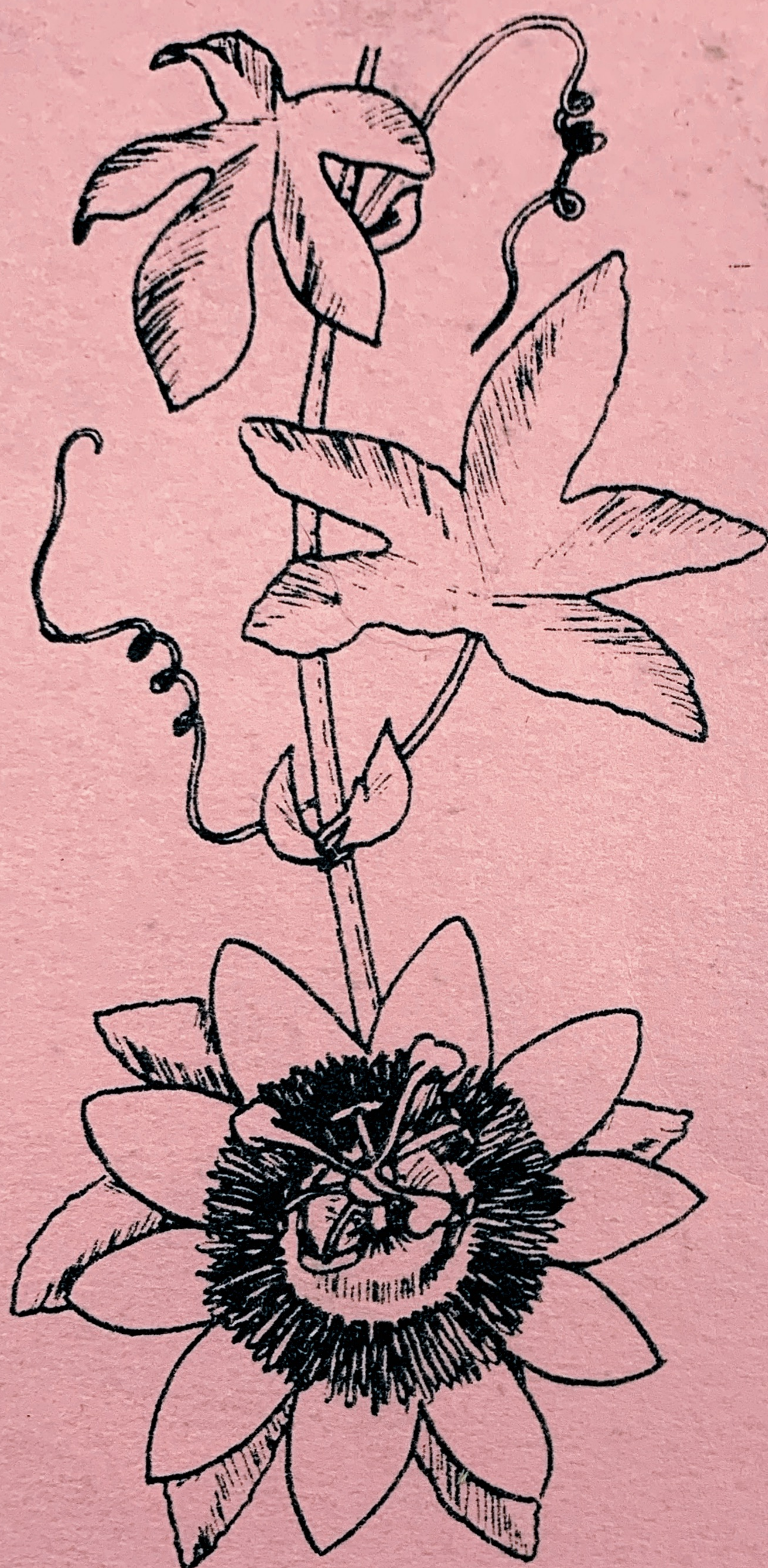


Cottingham-
cum-

Middleton
flower
festival



10-12 September, 1976

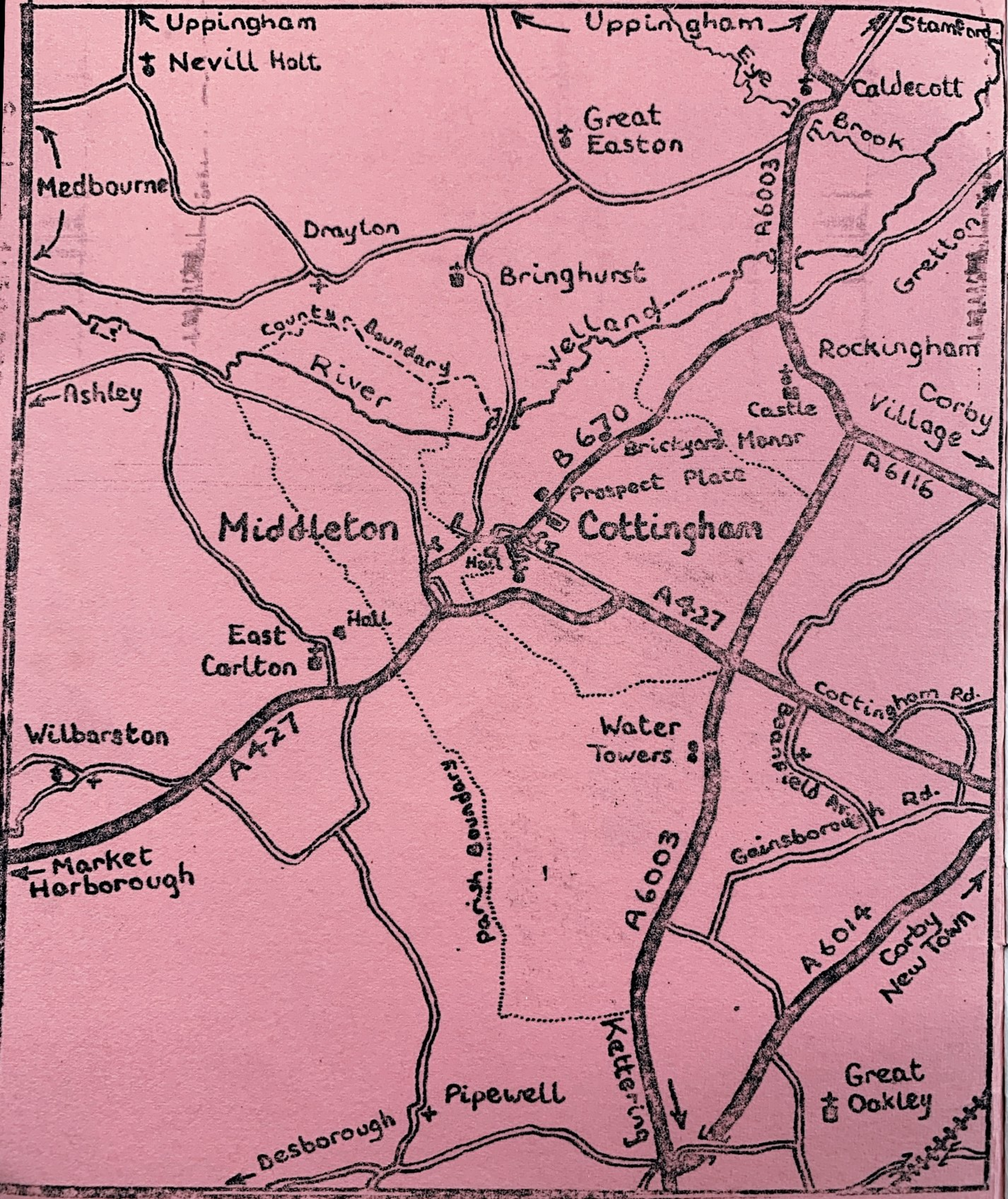
Programme 35p

(inclusive of admittance to events)

id North

COTTINGHAM-CUM-MIDDLETON (LOCATION)

Map
1



COTTINGHAM-CUM-MIDDLETON FLOWER FESTIVAL, 1976

N.B. PENSIONERS AND CHILDREN UNDER 14 MAY PURCHASE FESTIVAL TICKETS (PRICE 10 PENCE) IN LIEU OF PROGRAMMES. TICKETS GIVE ENTRY TO ALL EVENTS.

FLOWER FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mrs. K. Canning Vice-chairman: Rev. Geoffrey Ward
 Advertizing and Business Manager: Mr. M. Medwell
 Concert Producer: Mrs. J. Newman
 Craft Organizers: Mesdames M. Freestone, B. Granger, G. Henson, L. Lawson
 Local History and Programme Producer: Mr. M.P. York
 Refreshment and Produce Organizers: Mesdames M. Claypole, H. Bradshaw, C. Buswell, J. Ward

FLOWER ARRANGERS IN ST. MARY MAGDALENE

Technical Adviser: Mrs. A. Cobley
 Mesdames S. Beadsworth M. Childs J. Medwell
 B. Booth D. Cuckney V. Mole
 H. Bradshaw M. Freestone G. Moore
 C. Buswell H. Fydler M. Pickering
 K. Buswell B. Granger P. Rattan
 C. Campbell C. Hulett L. Saunders
 K. Canning V. Hempstead D. Sharman
 P. Carson E. Medwell J. Wright
 W.I. (L. Lawson) J. York

The Committee wishes to record its sincere thanks to all residents who have helped in so many ways to make this Festival possible.

Front Cover Design: Mrs. J.A. York

NOTES FOR VISITORS

PLEASE:

1. DO NOT SMOKE
2. DO NOT DISCARD LITTER
3. DO NOT BRING DOGS

IN THE CHURCH, CHAPEL, EXHIBITION CENTRES,
FARMS, AND GARDENS.

CAR PARKS (See Map 2):

1. COTTINGHAM: New School, Berryfield Road
Mr. Reynolds' Field, Brighthurst Rd
Royal George, Blind Lane
Spread Eagle, Cottingham Cross
2. MIDDLETON: Home Farm, Main Street
Mr. Littler's Field, Ashley Road

TOILETS (See Map 2):

1. COTTINGHAM: Royal George, Blind Lane
Spread Eagle, Cottingham Cross
2. MIDDLETON: Red Lion, The Hill

These Public House toilets will be open to
visitors during normal licensing hours and:

Saturday 11 September: 1430-1800 hours
Sunday 12 September: 1400-1900 hours

GARDENS ON VIEW (See Map 2) SAT/SUN 1500-1800 Hours:

1. COTTINGHAM: Dr. & Mrs. T. Fydler,
1, Rockingham Road
Mr. & Mrs. Newman, 2 School Lane
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall, 5 School Lane
2. MIDDLETON: Dr. & Mrs. B. Carson,
Gaulborough House, School Hill
Mr. & Mrs. E. Knauer,
Croatia, Main Street,
Mr. & Mrs. I. Saunders,
Cannam House, Main Street,
Mr. & Mrs. Wright, Longridge
Nurseries, Ashley Road
Mr. & Mrs. M. York,
The Uplands, Main Street

See Map 2 for suggested walk around the villages
and Maps 3 and 4 for precise locations.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER:

1930 Hours: Concert in the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Church Street, Cottingham.

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER:

1000-1930 Hours: Flower Display in the Church. The Bells will be rung and music will be played on the Organ at intervals throughout the day.

Organists: Mr. R. Spriggs and Mr. P.A.H. Welch, M.B.E.

Local History Exhibition in The Uplands West Barn, Main Street. Produce Stall on the Rectory Lawn. Arts, Crafts, and W.I. Exhibitions at Wood Hollow, Church Street.

1000-1200 & 1530-1730 Hours: Refreshments on the Rectory Lawn, Church Street.

1430-1730 Hours: Nassington Silver Band on the Lawn of Wood Hollow, Church Street.

1500-1730 Hours: Cake Decorating Demonstration in Mr. P. Bidwell's Bakery, Corby Road, Cottingham.

Spinning Demonstration in The Uplands West Barn, Main Street.

1400-1800 Hours: Exhibition in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, The Nook, Cottingham.

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER:

1000-1100 Hours: Family Communion with Commentary in the Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

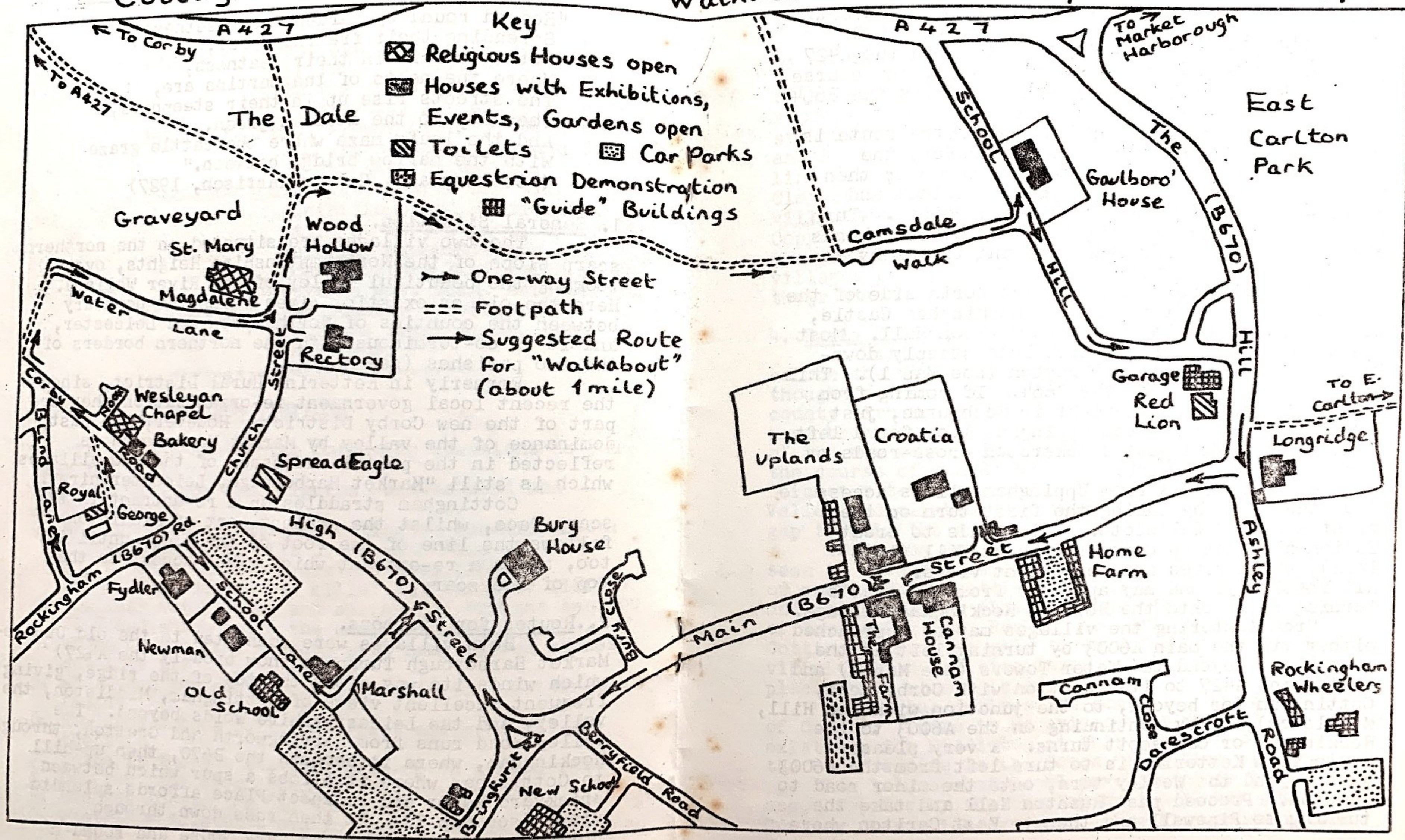
1100-1600 Hours: Baking and Cake Decoration Demonstrations in Mr. P. Bidwell's Bakery, Corby Road. YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BUY REAL COUNTRY BREAD!

1100-1200 & 1530-1730 Hours: Refreshments on the Rectory Lawn, Church Street.

1200-1400 Hours: Sherry Morning at the Bury House (Tickets 75p. adults, 30p. children; in advance please from Mrs. M. Freestone, Bury House).

Cottingham - cum - Middleton "Walkabout" Sketch-map

Map 2



sharp bend where it becomes Middleton Main Street. At the end of Main Street it divides, the B670 continuing left up Middleton Hill to join the A427 and the valley road following, probably, the course of the Roman road to Ashley where it joins the B664 Uppingham-Market Harborough Road.

From Leicester an easy cross-country route is to turn left for The Langtons just before the railway bridge on the A6 south of Kibworth; then head for Thorpe Langton followed by Welham and Weston-by-Welland where the B664 is joined. Turn left at the Church and right where the B664 bends round to the left for Medbourne and is met by the Ashley-Middleton road.

The roads that run along the north side of the valley give many fine views of Rockingham Castle, Cottingham, Middleton and East Carlton Hall. Most spectacular is the road which runs steeply downhill from Nevill Holt to Drayton (see Map 1). This may be approached from the B664. If coming from Market Harborough turn right in Medbourne, just before the Church. From Uppingham look for a left fork about a mile past Stockerston cross-roads or turn left in Medbourne.

The main A6003 from Uppingham allows access from the north by taking the first turn on the right south of Caldecott. This leads to Great Easton and then up over Brighthurst Hill (left fork), which gives more excellent views. Alternatively, one may approach from the east by turning right onto the B670 at Rockingham village.

From Kettering the villages may be approached either via the main A6003 by turning left at the roundabout beyond the Water Towers (see Map 1) and taking the A427 to its junction with Corby Road, Cottingham (or beyond, to the junction with The Hill, Middleton), or by continuing on the A6003 to the Rockingham or Caldecott turns. A very pleasant route from Kettering is to turn left from the A6003 just beyond the Weekly turn, onto the minor road to Rushton. Proceed past Rushton Hall and take the turning to Pipewell and then to East Carlton where

9

one turns right onto the A427 and then left down the B670 into Middleton.

3. Site and Geological Structure.

The Welland Valley near the villages consists of alluvium overlying sand and gravel above the base rocks. Rising from the valley one encounters first a stratum of Lower Lias followed by Marlstone, Upper Lias and Sandstone with Limestone Croppings. The spring-line falls at the junction of the Sandstone and the Clay of the Upper Lias, so that traditionally the villages have been well-watered as the mid-C19 Copyholders water system shows so vividly. It is to the presence of adequate water supplies that the villages probably owe their foundation, coupled with their strategic position.

4. Early History.

Virtually nothing is known of the villages before the C11. In Iron Age times a "summer way" is thought to have connected Aynho in the south of the county with Cottingham. Evidence of Roman remains have been found in Bury Close, during the construction of the new estate in the 1960's. They were near to the course of the Roman road which probably connected Leicester to Colchester. This crossed the Welland Valley and climbed the scarp slope via the Cottingham gap to gain the high ground around Corby.

After the Roman evacuation in the C5, the Saxons seem to have colonised the area, although the paucity of proven Saxon settlements between Stamford (Lincs.) and the Peatlings (Leics.) suggests the difficulties of developing it. Rockingham, Brighthurst, and Cottingham are the only three sites in the immediate vicinity with definite Saxon origins and all three places have strategic advantages.

Cottingham derives its name from the Saxon "home of Cotti". There is no evidence to suggest a separate existence for Middleton at this period - even though the "ton" ending is the Saxon "fortified place".

The lateness of local development is partly accounted for by the overlay on the higher ground of Boulder Clay which produced a heavily wooded region

suitable for hunting and later for timber and iron production, rather than for primitive agriculture.

5. Medieval Period.

During the century after the Norman Conquest there were three surveys of Northamptonshire of which records remain and these give evidence of a thriving community at Cottingham from at least the beginning of the C11 and by omission deny the existence of Middleton which, if yet founded, was merely an offshoot of the larger community.

"Cotyngheam" was at that time part of "Stoc" Hundred, which was absorbed into Corby Hundred during the C13.

In the Survey of about 1075 Stoke Hundred is assessed at a total of 42 Hides for tax purposes of which only $18\frac{1}{2}$ paid tax. Of the remainder $11\frac{1}{2}$ were exempt and 12 were waste. This reflects the destruction caused locally by the civil war around the time of the death of Edward and the accession of Harold. A decade later this is still reflected in the large amount of land exempt from taxes.

By the Domesday Survey of 1083-6 recovery seems to have taken place and Cottingham was part of the land of the Abbey of "St. Peter of Burg".

The C12 survey known as the "Geld Roll" confirms that the village is in the hands of the Abbey.

Perhaps the earliest mention of "Middleton" is the confirmation of the villages in the Abbey of Peterborough by Pope Eugenius III in 1146. It is to be found again in the Feet of Fines of 1197.

During the C13 we get our first tantalizing glimpse of the inhabitants of the two villages when various sources mention a few of them - e.g., Bartholemew "Fabro de Cotyngheam"; Robert Fauvel, a villein; and Richard "of the Hill on the east" whose toft lay "by the Royal Road". In Middleton there were William Mayn; Katherine Page; and Stephen Sydrok.

In 1370 Sir Henry Greene of Boughton, Chief justice in the reign of Edward III was given the villages and he left them to his heir Sir Thomas. During the C15 there was a manor of "Hill" in Middleton, which was in the possession of William

Palmer of Carlton. However, as the Middle Ages drew to their close, the villages were once more in the possession of Peterborough Abbey.

6. Modern Period.

The Abbey was dissolved in 1536 and in 1539 John Chambers, Bishop-elect of the new diocese was made warden of its property: it is recorded that there were no fewer than three mills in Cottingham; one wind, one water, and one horse. The villages now became Crown property and were granted in 1543 to William Parre, then in 1548 to William, Marquis of Northampton, on whose death they reverted to the Crown. Elizabeth I granted them in 1582 to her Lord Chancellor, Sir Christopher Hatton of Kirby.

From the C16 surnames appear in documents which survive in the villages until the present century, e.g., B(1)unkley, Chapman and Peake.

In 1671 the Hattons enclosed Cottingham Woods and Middleton Thicket. At the same time Andrew Collin, Walter Newbone, Thomas Bowman and John Maydwell were seized of the manor of Cottingham. This is the origin of the Copyholders franchise which is still in being. In 1676 Christopher, Lord Hatton, sold the advowson of Cottingham to the Principal and Fellows of Brasenose College, Oxford, who have selected latter-day incumbents of the parish.

During the C18 information about the villages becomes increasingly abundant and suggests busy and thriving communities. From Militia and other returns we learn how important weaving became in the later decades of the century - although in a will of 1684 William Dexter, Fuller, of Middleton was one of the sureties. This suggests that even in the C17 cloth-making was important locally if sufficient was produced to maintain a fuller.

During the early C18 the following rhyme may have originated:

"Corby Cross, Cott'nham Key,
Oakley O, Gretton G."

and on the boundary between Corby and Cottingham on what is now the A427 there was a boundary stone with a key inscribed on the Cottingham side and a Greek

Cross on the Corby side. It is possible that these were marks once used to distinguish animals grubbing in the wastes around Rockingham Forest.

By the C19 Wesleyan Methodism was fairly strong in the locality since the first Chapel was completed in 1808. That non-conformism was popular is reflected in the construction of Independent Chapels at Cottingham (1834) and Middleton (1844). Until the present century they seem to have been well-supported: sufficiently for there to be a resident Minister at Middleton who also serviced Cottingham. However, with the growing secularism of the past 50 years, they have closed, that at Middleton in the late 1960's. It has now been converted into a private dwelling house.

During the C19 the locality depended primarily on agriculture for its livelihood - the only house in the villages giving regular employment on any scale seems to have been the Rectory (now Wood Hollow) since the Bury House was rarely occupied. Inevitably, the lack of alternative employment led to a decline in general living standards. Nevertheless, the range of occupations shows how self-sufficient the village could be until recent times: bakers, blacksmiths, masons, brick-makers (many of the older brick houses are constructed of bricks made at "Brickyard Manor"), candlemakers, tailors, tanners, and, of course, publicans. Up to the present century Cottingham could boast 5 inns of which only one (the Royal George) remains in something like its original form, whilst Middleton had a further three, none of which have survived.

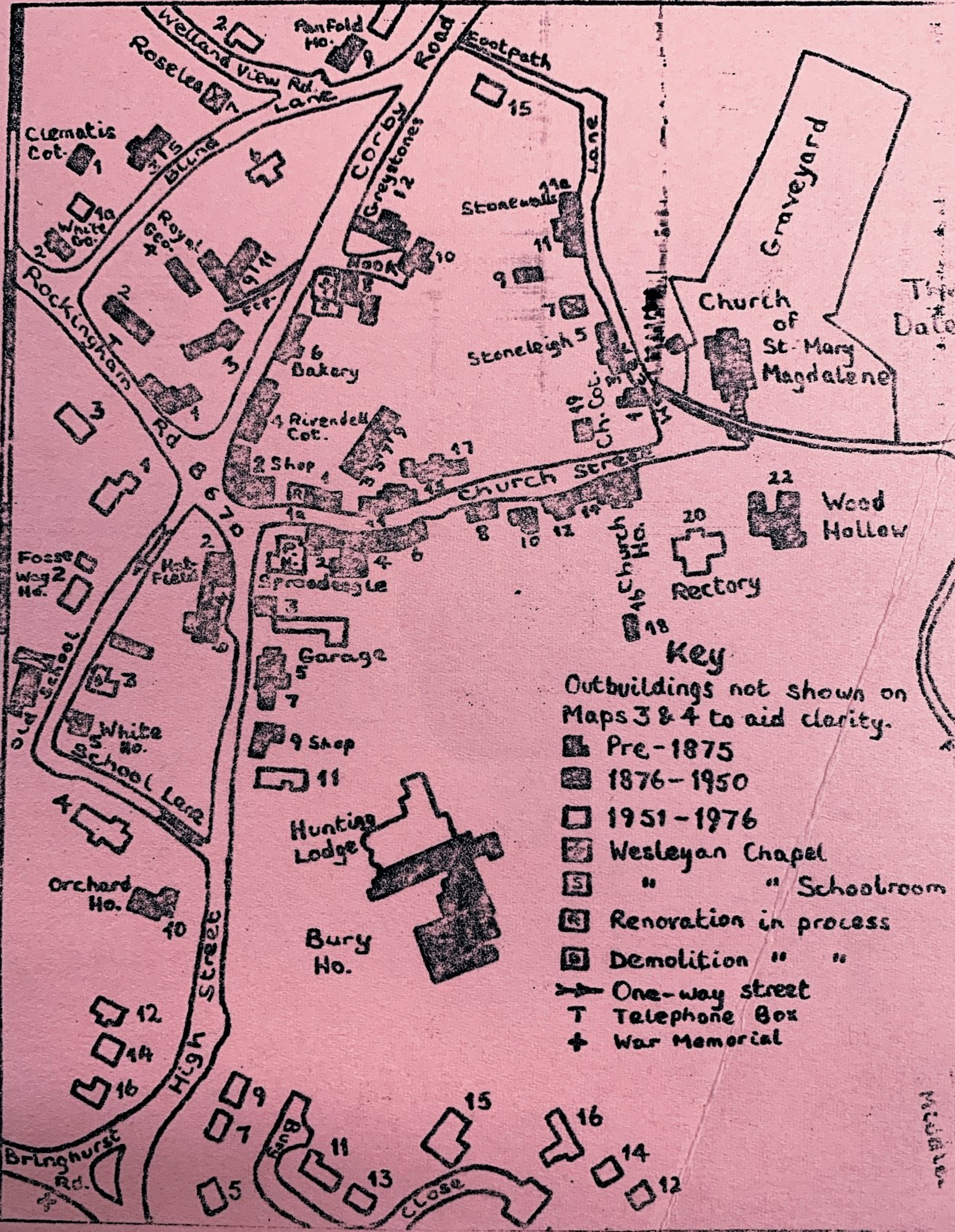
Since the Second World War the villages have recovered from their previous decline, although at the expense of becoming largely dormitory units.

Bibliography:

- John Tipper: Notes on the Church of St. Mary Magdalene
(on sale in the Church)
- Michael York: The Local Militia 1760-1802
(on sale at The Uplands)

COTTINGHAM VILLAGE (CENTRE)

Scale:- 1:2500 Vertical Side 475 metres Horizontal 375 metres



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Date

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