

# MIDDLETON- CUM-FORDLEY



*Before....*

*....and after !*



## NEWSLETTER

*February 2022*

Editorial

Another bumper edition this month with catching up with the events in December and January. Hopefully the photos give a flavour of what's been happening - pity I can't put them all in. Lots more brilliant fundraising and more to come with Mandy and Steve (Manor House) taking part in the NGS snowdrop festival later in February. Talking of snowdrops hopefully we will have a good display at the back of the village hall soon with the ones lots of you donated last year.

MCC have set the ball rolling for an event sometime this year to mark the historic Platinum Jubilee of the Queen. (See the notice further on in this issue). Hopefully a group can be formed of interested parties from the different organisations and individuals in the village rather like the WW1 celebrations from a few years ago, and the WW2 ones that were unfortunately cancelled due to Covid.

The village hall new roof project is due to get underway imminently and hopefully there won't be too much disruption to bookings or noisy inconvenience to the residents in the immediate vicinity. Please let us know if any problems arise. Once the roof is done, we can look again at the possibility of solar panels to help with the ever-increasing electricity costs and landscaping the carpark area.

Contributions for the next newsletter to me by email preferably as a WORD doc please to **barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com** or 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual. Also to be found on the Parish website. **www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk**.

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Belated congratulations to Cherri Ward (nee Lloyd-daughter of Steve and Gina in Rectory Road) and Pete Sewell who married at Kelsale church on 11-11-21.



Dear all,

Thank you to everyone for the donated stamps which I will be sending off to the RNIB at the beginning of February.

Bev Chamberlain

07952 962530



THANK YOU - For all the telephone calls to Ian, emails, concern shown and offers of help over the past 6 weeks whilst I was unwell, they were very much appreciated.

I am pleased to say I am feeling a lot better.

Rita x

# Leroy's Charity Headshave Evening

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022



Leroy had been unable to get his hair cut since first lockdown. He had discussed with mum what to do for the best but wanted to raise money for a good cause.

This discussion was before I was diagnosed with Breast cancer in November 2020. He then felt it would be quite fitting if he raised money for the Blossom Appeal and Woolverstone Wing as both have been my second home following both chemo and radiotherapy.

I had a mastectomy Christmas Eve 2020, and it was trying to sort a date post treatment. Also mum has had breast cancer previously. ( With the next lockdowns coming in 2021 things got pushed back and the hair got even longer!)

We didn't know if Leroy's hair was long enough to be used for children's wigs, but I'm pleased to say 3 charities have benefited from this event and that his hair has gone to the children's trust to be made into wigs. So very proud.

We have managed to raise £2700 to date of which we are both very grateful to all that donated money, draw prizes and time to support the event.



More money was pledged apparently if the beard went too !



Without the great support from all that helped and attended, the evening would not have been possible.

Money raised helps another person's journey that little more bearable within a very daunting time.

A good evening was had by all.

**Sharon Brown (sister)**



Thanks to Charlie Magee for some great photos.

## More news from The Bell

New arrivals.... 5 kids.



We've nicknamed the boys (we will sell them when they're ready to go but it's nice for them to have a name)- Toby was born 23rd December, twin boys Tom and Jerry born 2nd January and then there's the second lot of twins a boy and a girl born 4th January. We haven't named them yet as we have asked Middleton Primary School children to come up with some names for the girl and we will then pick from their suggestions as the girl will be staying, and at the time we will give her brother a name as well.

As they get older they will be out more often enjoying a good run around and jumping and playing on everything, and yes that includes jumping on their mums! Toby already tries and jump on the sheep :-D



Kayleigh

### **And the next new arrival is...**

Our new chef - his name is Anthony and he will be starting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan., the kitchen will be reopening for evening service on Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. The hours will stay similar at this time of year which means the kitchen won't be serving food on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Kitchen will be open Wednesday to Friday 12-2.30 and 6-9. Saturday all day, Sunday 12-4.

Not forgetting the regular Wednesday coffee morning 10 -12. Served outside/inside or takeaway.



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### **SITUATION VACANT:**

Cleaner/housekeeper required for **two** adjacent holiday homes in the village which have a Friday change-over day.

Contact Carlos on 07771807530 for further details.

## Pre – Christmas events round up (and more fundraising)



Dear Colin Whitbread

Thank you for making a donation of £610.00 to East Anglian Air Ambulance! Every penny donated goes towards helping us to save lives 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With the help of supporters, we have been able to attend over 28,000 life-threatening incidents. As with most charities, we receive no regular government funding and rely on the community we serve to keep us flying.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact our team on:

03450 669 999

[info@eaaa.org.uk](mailto:info@eaaa.org.uk)



**A huge thank you from Colin & Lyn ~**

**To everyone who gave a donation to the East Anglia Air Ambulance Charity Night held in December at Suncot. We raised £610.**

**Our thanks to:**

- Those who came to the damp and cold charity night but enjoyed a mince pie and mulled wine and time to socialise, at last.
- Julian (The Bell pub) for donating the mulled wine and his son who made sure everyone had something to eat;
- Fiona and June for ensuring the wine never stopped flowing;
- Everyone who baked shortbread, savoury delights and meltingly delicious mince pies.



Santa Boules winners ( Richard & Jenny) and runners up (Brian & Peter). December 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Cleaning and clearing road signs plus litter removal.

Summer Wine November 2021



Mike Hemming works his magic on speed signs. If they are camouflaged by vegetation then the signs have no legal standing.



Messrs. Morris & Kendall – purveyors of wash and brush-ups for almost dead road signs.



Many thanks to Jenny Merredew for so beautifully repainting the Village Hall sign at the beginning of December.

VH Committee.

# MCC CHRISTMAS OUTDOOR PARTY

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Luckily the weather held out for our outdoor event at The Bell which was attended by over 100 residents. Proceedings were started off by Archie & Percy and their "plunger" turning on the tree lights on the green.

After everyone wandered over to the pub happily chatting amongst themselves and catching up with folk they hadn't seen in months, mulled wine and turkey rolls were served by the Bell staff, with sausage rolls, hot spiced apple juice and satsumas provided by MCC. There were also lovely mince pies very kindly donated by Sarah and Woodbridge Bakery.

Once everyone had had their fill the musicians tuned up and the small band of singers led us in carols and other seasonal songs. The raffle concluded the evening and by all accounts everyone had a good time.

MCC wish to reiterate thanks to all the Bell management and staff involved, to Sarah Moss and Woodbridge Bakery for donating the mince pies, and to all of you who came and made it a success.



We would also like to congratulate Hebe Cooke on being awarded a scholarship to study at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London.



But perhaps the two youngest were a little bewildered by it all!



## HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY



### Services during February

Sunday 13 February                      Morning Praise 11am  
Sunday 27 February                      Holy Communion 9.30am  
with Theberton                              at Theberton

***The Benefice Holy Communion Service this month takes place in Sibton on Sunday 6 February at 10am during which there will be the opportunity to say a personal farewell to Revd. Brian Jolley (see letter below)***

***Please come along***

### **A letter to us all from Rev.d Brian Jolley**

Dear friends

This is a hard letter to write and one that I had never imagined writing and it is probably a good thing that we cannot see what the future has in store for us, certainly I had no idea of how my future was going to pan out over the past year.

Many of you know that circumstances have conspired to make me retire from being a working pharmacist and as a result we had to downsize from our home in Yoxford and we found a new home outside the Benefice. It transpires that the underlying health issue which prompted this was a mini stroke which although thankfully not life threatening has adversely affected my eyesight. Recent tests are indicating that the cause of this was of a neurological nature and as a result it poses the wisdom of continuing to commute to Yoxmere as well as giving you all the ministry you all deserve.

Because of this I will be completing my training locally in the Wilford Benefice and this will commence in February.

I have much to be grateful to Yoxmere and it is sad that I will have to be taking this step, but at this time of Epiphany we must follow where we think God is leading us, and like the Magi I feel like I am heading on path unknown.

This does not affect Maureen's work and calling in anyway and she is looking forward to continuing to work and support Revd. Tim and the rest of the Benefice at this wonderful time of change and hope.

Thank you for the love and support you have given me over the past 5 years, it has been an honour and privilege to walk this part of our earthly pilgrimage together.

***Revd. Brian Jolley***

In the light of this letter, we would simply like to thank Rev.d Brian for his heartfelt support here in Middleton. He leaves with our warmest best wishes and will remain in our prayers. We will miss him.

### **Holy Dusters rota February 🤗**

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none...

2 February: Irene and Amanda  
2 March: Mark and Liz  
6 April: Rob and Paul

16 February: Rob and Paul 2  
16 March: Nicole and Margaret  
21 April: Amanda and Irene





**A date for your diaries – CHURCH SPRING CLEAN - Saturday 19 March between 10-12 noon** everyone warmly welcome for as short or long as you can spare

Holy dusters and something sweet (no crumbs please) provided 😊

### **“Pop-up” Carol service on the Village Green, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021**



Photo by Mark Mitchels

*Looking back on the last year, and my first 6 months as treasurer, I am moved by the generosity of Middleton folk in their willingness to give of both their time and resources.*

*Over the Christmas period we replaced our traditional Carol Service with a 'pop-up' one, around the Christmas tree on the green, and 50 of you came. During this event we were also able to raise £110 toward the work of The Children's Society. We also received a gift of £130 from our church insurers, we felt it right to share this with those who were more in need this Christmas, and gifted it on to a local homeless charity based in Ipswich.*

*Therefore, this is my opportunity to thank you all for your giving over the last year, through the annual appeal, the Open Gardens which enabled us to make a donation to the wonderful work of the Suffolk Ambulance Rescue Service and for smaller projects in the village; our small part in the Summer and Autumn fairs, as well as to those who give to us each time they pop into the Church. Thank you also to English Heritage, for the grant that enabled us to have the buttress repaired. Not forgetting those who choose to make a regular monthly donation, we could not continue to keep the doors open and strive to build the kingdom of love without your on-going commitment, you help more than you know.*

*Due to recent times being difficult for so many, and the generosity shown in giving in 2021, we have decided not to have an appeal this year. However, as some of you have expressed a wish to still make a contribution towards the upkeep and work of Holy Trinity, we would be pleased to receive any donation offered; so, you are welcome to contact either myself, or one of the church wardens, and we will be happy to receive your gifts. Alternatively, pause a while in Holy Trinity, reflect on the lessons of the last year, hold us all 'in your thoughts'.*

*At the start of this new year we, who are part of the Holy Trinity community, look forward once again to working with all those individuals and community groups who make Middleton a good place to live.*

Many thanks

David Burgess, Treasurer and on behalf of Middleton PCC

### **Thought for the month**

**‘We do not come to God by navigation but by love.’ St Augustine of Hippo**

At our January meeting Deb and Emily from the Lighthouse Women's Aid charity talked to us about their work and the effects of the pandemic on it. The Lighthouse is celebrating its' 46th year and runs a women's Refuge and a Community Women's Centre in Ipswich. The Refuge has room for 15 families escaping domestic abuse. They get help to recover from their trauma, learn self-confidence, learn how to deal with the practicalities of life (money, shopping, cooking, housing) so that they can move on when they are ready. The Refuge is seen as a temporary stop on the way to independence. During lockdown no families could go in or out.

The Community Centre is a one stop shop for advice and information for women and children. Appointments can be booked for legal, housing, and money advice. If the Lighthouse cannot provide the necessary advice, they refer the client to someone who can help. There is a cafe and craft club. There are programmes and workshops from learning about self-worth and confidence, how to recognise abuse, how to improve mother/children relationships to fun well-being sessions like cooking and beauty. All this had to be put on hold. Emily, the Community worker who does the crisis and advice work usually on a face-to-face basis had to work over the phone, clients felt trapped, tensions were up. With all the Lighthouse staff working from home, they could not have their usual end of day debriefing to ease the effects of dealing with so many human problems.

Emily is hoping to raise awareness of abuse in the older age group. The main thing to remember is that domestic abuse can hit all age groups and income levels. The education programme "Expect Respect" aimed at school children ages 5-18 had to be stopped but it is hoped that it can be resumed soon. It is a toolkit that is split into age appropriate interactive and fun lessons. These lessons are designed to challenge gender assumptions, highlight the differences between healthy and abusive relationships and promote the message that abuse is not acceptable. By educating young people about physical, emotional, or psychological abuse, it is hoped the repeating cycle of abuse can be broken. Lynda, our president, thanked Deb and Emily for a very thought-provoking talk, discussion of which carried on through our teatime!

The next meeting will be February 19th at 7:15 pm. Gary Doy (Lifeboat operations manager) will give us tales of the Southwold Lifeboat. All welcome.

LV

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## **Manor House Garden (Middleton) opening for the NGS Snowdrop Festival 20th February (10am-3pm)**

<https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/37635>

For 2022 Mandy & Steve are opening the garden as part of the NGS Snowdrop Festival. Visitors can book online at the website (link above) but will also be able to turn up and pay on the gate. Cars will be directed to park at the Middleton Playing Field from where they can access the garden by walking down the fieldside to the back entrance - there will be signs to direct visitors.

The National Garden Scheme is an organisation close to our hearts - originally set up in 1927 to support district nurses, the NGS now raises millions of pounds for nursing and health charities each year. They also support charities doing amazing work in gardens and health, grant bursaries to help community gardening projects and support gardeners at the start of their career. All monies raised from our event will go to these NGS charities.

Please do come along and enjoy some time in the fresh air.

Tickets can also make a great gift for someone you know.

If you are unable to join us on the day but would still like to donate, you can do so by buying a ticket from the website.



## Holy Trinity Church Middleton

### Open Gardens 2022

Saturday and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June

Concern was raised regarding holding our event over the Jubilee celebration weekend when so many may be involved or visiting elsewhere. However we have decided to stay with the first weekend in June and look forward to a good event.

There will be plenty of opportunity to join in the celebrations; Jubilee themed wheelbarrows and containers, bunting everywhere, decorations around the bus shelter and Village Hall, telephone box etc! No doubt the pub and school will rise to the occasion. Let imagination take over!

Apart from all the fun, our event is the major fundraiser for our church but we have been liaising with Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals fundraisers to give our support to the Blossom Appeal to build a new breast care centre at Ipswich Hospital.

As I said last year, I will not be leading this event going forward but it will be organised by members of the PCC and volunteers who have helped in the past.

At the PCC meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February the "first contact" will be decided, until then please get in touch with me, especially if you are intending to open your garden.

Thank you

Irene Ralph 648622 or ireneralph333@gmail.com

## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Middleton Community Council would like to invite representatives of village organisations and members of the community to a meeting to ascertain interest in forming a Steering Committee to plan and organise a village celebration to recognise the historic event of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



**The meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 3pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.**

Anyone who is interested in participating but cannot attend the meeting or anyone who would like further information please contact either:

Tricia Cooke – 648900 tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com

Richard Turner – 648345 jenricht@btinternet.com

**N.B** any event does not necessarily have to take place on the two newly designated bank holidays on 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> June or that weekend. The directive from Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk gave a broad timescale.

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## CALLING ALL YOUNG RESIDENTS

Each year the Community Council offers a bursary of up to £100 to support young village residents to participate in a worthwhile activity. So far most grants have been for travel, music lessons or instruments.

All it takes is a letter, handwritten or electronic, putting your case and request and it will be considered by the Committee. This year it could be you!

**Please contact:** [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com) or drop a letter in to Threeways, The Street.  
Or [tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com](mailto:tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com) Central House, The Street.

## February Nature Notes

In early February as we approach the depth of winter it feels as though the countryside is dead, so it is comforting to be able to see the first flowers of spring. One of the first to show are the catkins of the hazel trees as they suddenly lengthen, and becoming droopy like lamb's tails, although, the word catkin itself, comes from the Middle Dutch *katteken*, meaning kitten.

Flowering early obviously gives the hazel an advantage; leaves do not interfere with the flow of pollen through the air, and this gives a greater chance that the pollen will reach a female flower somewhere downwind. When the catkins expand it means the pale-yellow male hazel flowers are opening and the pollen liberated. Pollination is by wind, and the slightest breeze will ruffle the catkin and lift the pollen. When the pollen grain drops down it lands with luck on the bright red stigmas of the female. The stigma (pollen receptive area) is the only part of the flower that ever protrudes from the bud; the rest of the highly reduced flower, and particularly the egg cells, is kept protected from the weather in the centre of the bud. Once an individual pollen grain has landed on the stigma, it puts out a fine tube which carries the male nucleus to fertilise the egg and produce the hazel nut we see in autumn. Hazel is self-incompatible - successful pollination only occurs between different trees, as a single tree cannot pollinate itself.



The hazel genus *Corylus* is usually considered a member of the birch family of trees, *Betulaceae*, though some botanists split the hazels (with the hornbeams) into a separate family *Corylaceae*. There are about fifteen species of hazel in the world, of these only the common hazel and the filbert are extensively grown for their nuts. Hazel nuts are also a favourite food of grey squirrels, dormice and wood mice, and some small mammals will cache their finds, storing them in burrows or old birds' nests. There are also about eighty species of insect associated with hazel trees, which far fewer than for oak and willow but greater than for holly, sycamore and chestnut trees.

Hazel is widely distributed throughout much of Europe. Within this large range its distribution is uneven and it typically grows as an understorey component of deciduous forest, especially with oaks. In open positions it can grow to a height of ten metres or more, but is usually smaller when growing in woodland. Typically it has a number of shoots or trunks branching out at, or just above, ground level, and this ability to produce multiple stems gives it a dense, spreading appearance and has led to its extensive use for coppicing. Hazel is a short-lived tree, only reaching fifty to eighty years of age, but if it is coppiced, either by people or naturally through damage to its trunks, it will live much longer, often several hundred years. The growth of successive new stems leads to the formation of a large base, or stool, which can be up to 2 metres in diameter, and in this way coppiced hazels can live for several hundred years. The bark is smooth and shiny, and is greyish-brown in colour. It peels off in strips as the tree gets older, and the trunks are often covered in mosses, liverworts and lichens.

Peter Vincent

.....  
The Umbrella Tree Middleton Moor due for its ten-year haircut soon.

A.B.



VID-20211129-WA0  
004.mp4



Click on this link to view a resident hedgehog caught on camera by Dennis & Sue

Joyce Miller 1928-2022

It is with great sadness that I report the death of my mother, Joyce Miller, who died in Ipswich Hospital on 6th January from heart failure.

Joyce moved to Middleton in 1972 with her husband, George, and had an art shop in Saxmundham selling George's paintings. She was chair of Middleton Community Council for a number of years as well as chair of Saxmundham Business Association.



Joyce loved Middleton and was very active in village life, for example regularly organising village coach trips to Thursford Christmas Spectacular, helping with the old people's Christmas dinner, fund raising, and being a keen member of Middleton badminton club. Later in life she was thrilled to be invited to open Middleton's anniversary fete and to be awarded the village silver tray (which she herself had awarded to others), and to be asked to open the new village hall kitchen.

She was delighted recently to receive, in a brief respite at home from hospital, a wonderful Christmas hamper from the Thursday morning community coffee group. She remarked how lucky she was to live in such a caring and supportive village.

I would like to echo this and to thank you all, most sincerely, for the friendship and support you have shown my mother over the years.

Christine Kyriacou

## Free Drop-in Coffee

continues Thursdays 10-11.30 am - Village Hall

All welcome for coffee/tea and cake

Transport can be arranged if needed.

Contact Lesley 07970257329 or Lynda 668977

Don't forget you can avail yourself of any of our IT installations if you need to.



*The Parish Council would like to hear residents' ideas for repurposing the restored public telephone box for community use after previous plans did not come to fruition.*

*There are many ways in which the telephone box could be given a new lease of life - perhaps a book or seed exchange, visitor information centre, historical or art exhibition?*

*The Parish Council would also be grateful for any offers of help from residents to ensure the telephone box remains a useful heritage asset for the community.*

*Please send any suggestions to the Parish Clerk by telephone on 01728 648576 or by email to [parishclerkmiddletoncumfordley@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkmiddletoncumfordley@gmail.com).*





## Concerts at Cratfield

### AT THE CUT PRESENTS

Tamsin Waley-Cohen *violin*  
Huw Watkins *piano*

Debussy: Violin Sonata in G minor  
Watkins: Sonata for Violin and Piano  
Beethoven: Violin sonata No.5/op.24 'Spring'

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 27TH 2022**  
**AT 2.30PM**

Box Office and Booking Tickets  
boxoffice@newcut.org  
0300 3033 211  
www.newcut.org/events

The Cut, New Cut,  
Halesworth, Suffolk,  
IP19 8BY



Winner of the LTA  
Suffolk County Tennis Club  
of the Year 2019-20

### Want to get fitter this year?

Get off the sofa, beat the winter blues, and get moving!

Join a Cardio Tennis session at Saxmundham Tennis Club

**Every Thursday, 6-7pm**

### What's Cardio Tennis?

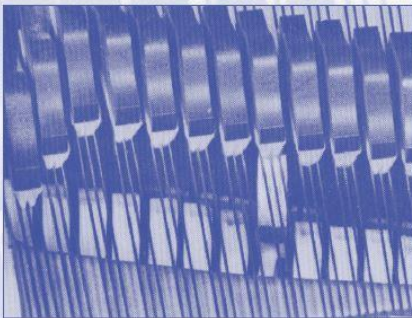
*It's a fun, sociable group fitness class on a tennis court. During the session you'll improve your fitness, tone key muscles, burn plenty of calories and improve your tennis in a friendly, group environment.*

**Everyone welcome, all ages and abilities!**

Cost £7.50 per session or 7-week term for £45

Try your first session for free

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Graham Cooke *DipMIT MPTA*  
*Piano Tuner/Technician*

Tel: 01728 648900  
Mob: 07812 249654  
E-mail: [grcooke@btinternet.com](mailto:grcooke@btinternet.com)

## Jo Hannon Design

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Domestic extensions – Kitchens – Bathrooms – Furniture

[jo@johannondesign.com](mailto:jo@johannondesign.com)

07815 295927



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[sarah.252hepworth@yahoo.com](mailto:sarah.252hepworth@yahoo.com)  
01728 648474  
07884 436178

## ORLANDO HANNON Gardening Services

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[ollo.hannon@btinternet.com](mailto:ollo.hannon@btinternet.com)  
07770 617050 / 07815 295927

Newsletter INCOME 2021		Newsletter EXPENDITURE 2021	
		Leiston Press 1 issue @ £172 (July)	£ 172.00
		Leiston Press 1 issue @ £161 (Nov.)	£ 161.00
Church	£ 50.00	Leiston Press 4 issues @ £142 (Aug.Sep.Oct.Dec)	£ 568.00
Parish Council	£ 300.00		
Community council	£ 100.00	Leiston Press 1 issue @ £138 (June)	£ 138.00
WI	£ 100.00	Leiston Press 3 issues @ £130 (Feb.Mar.May)	£ 390.00
Advertisers	£ 170.00	Leiston Press 1 issue @ £105 (Apr.)	£ 105.00
Individual donations during the year	£ 375.00	Leiston Press 1 issue @ £92 (Jan.)	£ 92.00
Christmas Greetings	£ 305.00	Paper & stamps	£ 9.92
<b>Total income 2021</b>	£ <b>1400.00</b>	Printer ink (flyers & extras)	£ 89.45
		PDF converter	£ 21.14
Carry Forward 01/01/2020	£ 2055.63	Annual petrol for collection & delivery @ £1.50 pm	£ 18.00
		Total expenditure	£ 1764.51
<b>Total with carry forward</b>	£ <b>3455.63</b>		

Without the carry forward from 2020 the newsletter expenditure exceeded the income in 2021 by £364.51. When the carry forward is added we have a balance of £1691.12

Printing costs for Leiston Press in 2020 were £982, reflecting the fact that most issues had less pages. A lot of extra pages this year have been to do with Sizewell related issues. Also the number of copies printed has gone up from 70 to 100, with more people requesting to go back to paper.

I have charged the account with 1.50 per month (12 issues) for collecting from Leiston and distributing to the deliverers. There have been several flyers to home - print during the year for those who do not receive electronically.

In conclusion we have a balance carried forward to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 of £ 1691.12 which is down on last year's £ 2055.63

Thank you everyone for your continued support.

Thank you too, to our slightly changed regular team of deliverers - Diane, Mark, Val, Angela, Bev, Lesley, Renny, Jean/Basil, Liz. (hope I haven't missed anyone!) and anyone who has previously delivered or acts as a stand in. Graham and Jonathan have decided to come off the team for the present time so any volunteer(s) for a regular Rectory Road slot will be gratefully received.

BB



Anyone for cribbage?

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February is available for a practice/refresher evening as we have no league game. Anyone welcome to join us whatever your level for an informal get together and a few games. 7.pm onwards at the Bell. Complete beginners very welcome – tuition available.

# MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021  
AT 7:00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

## 1. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack – Chair  
Cllr. Roy Dowding – Vice-Chair  
Cllr. Lesley Taylor  
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread

### In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
District Cllr. Tom Daly  
10 members of the public

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Dennis Peel – written and accepted  
Cllr. Chris Reynolds – written and accepted  
Cllr. Colin Whitbread – written and accepted  
Cllr. Graham Lacey – written and accepted  
Cllr. Steve Thorpe – written and accepted  
County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Russ Rainger  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

## 2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

## 3. Public Forum

a) A resident asked the Chairman for an update on meetings with EDF and SCC Highways about transport matters. The Chairman explained that he and Cllr. Lacey eventually met online with EDF and SCC Highways on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The Chairman summarised the following matters which were discussed at the meeting:

1. Mitigation measures for the B1122 through Middleton Moor during the 'early years'.
2. B1122 configuration after the SLR comes into use.
3. Footpath crossings of the SLR including signage and protection for pedestrians.
4. Connectivity vs rat-running risk along Fordley Road, including connection to the SLR.
5. Landscaping along the SLR, including the attenuation ponds.
6. Engagement with residents and landowners in Hawthorn Road.

A resident asked for more detail about the footpaths which she uses daily to exercise her dogs and children. The Chairman said there was a lack of unanimity between EDF and Highways about the footpath crossings on the SLR. Highways are in favour of central reservations but the movement of Abnormal indivisible Loads makes this impossible during most of the construction phase. The resident expressed concern about crossing the SLR. The Chairman said he shared those concerns but EDF has ruled out footbridges. Highways said they would consider footbridges but they would be visually intrusive. The resident suggested that pedestrian underpasses could be provided similar to those under the A14. The Chairman replied that EDF said this is not possible but the SLR has not yet reached the final design stage, The resident asked the Chairman to force EDF to reconsider this as they gave the farmers' agricultural access when forced to do so. The Chairman replied that the Council made strong representations to the Planning Inspectorate about the lack of pedestrian access and safety and would continue to do so.

A resident asked if the Council had taken any professional advice on options for keeping Fordley Road open. The Chairman said the Council had considered this but it was well beyond the remit of the precept. He has asked EDF what provision could be made by them for financial support with this and EDF had said that they would only (where detailed design issues were still undecided) be willing to draw up detailed plans on which they would consult us. The resident asked if the Council had obtained any quotes for detailed plans and the Chairman replied no. The Chairman said that EDF's standard reply is that an underpass is not in the DCO proposals, and if they receive consent, the proposals are what they are consented to deliver.

The Chairman said that the process has been that EDF came up with proposals which were submitted for examination. The Parish Council and members of the public submitted their representations and objections. As a result, EDF made some changes to the DCO application. In Middleton these included shifting the junction of the SLR and Fordley Road slightly east. Following this, changes to the DCO were closed off. If the DCO is approved, there is a process to allow EDF to negotiate the detailed designs for the SLR with Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council. The resident asked why Cllr, Lacey has not presented a report to the Council about his representations on behalf of the parish. Cllr. Lesley Taylor replied that Cllr. Lacey was not tasked to present a report and that the Chairman is following due process and reporting the outcome of the meeting to the Council and the members of the public present. The resident asked for the Council's stance about the Fordley Road underpass. The Chairman replied that EDF said that it did not form part of its proposals and Highways said regrettably it cannot be done. The resident asked if the Council put forward that the majority of residents want Fordley Road kept open. The Chairman replied that he had done so but that in light of EDF and SCC's position on the underpass option, the only solution now is for SZC not to proceed or for the SLR not to be built on the proposed route.



The resident said he has invested a lot of money on behalf of the community drawing up plans for the underpass and he has not received any feedback from the Council. He said he spoke to Highways who gave a different response to the one reported by the Chairman.

He said Highways said there were technical difficulties with delivering the underpass which was the same response they gave during the examination. The resident said the Council were not pinning down EDF and Highways and by doing so they were allowing Fordley Road to be severed. He asked the Council to represent his views strongly.

The Chairman replied that his views had been heard and that the Council were also representing the wider community, particularly the Moor residents. The resident asked if they were more important than the Fordley residents. Cllr. Taylor said it was not just the Moor residents being considered. She explained that Highways were not always supportive and that the Council has to go through them and EDF. She said the Council has little clout with either. The Chairman said he raised concerns about traffic passing closely to properties on the Moor during the early years. EDF are only now undertaking topographical surveys and boundary reviews to ascertain if a footpath can be put in. A resident asked what can they do to get their voices heard. Cllr. Dowding replied that the Fordley residents are the same as the Moor residents and all are being represented.

Cllr. Roy Dowding explained that the next trigger will happen if DCO consent is given. He said everything that has been raised at this meeting has been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. He said the purpose of the recent meeting with EDF was to discuss how to move forward if DCO consent is given and it was not a detailed planning meeting. The Chairman said that EDF said they would come back and discuss these matters and that the Council had agreed to enter into a Deed of Covenant which obligated EDF and the Local Authorities to consult with the Council in relation to mitigations for the B1122 in the early years.

A resident asked why the parish only has a working group for the B1122 and that she did not feel represented by anyone. The Chairman said that the B1122 Action Group had not been set up by the Parish Council and also included residents of Theberton. The resident said she did not know it existed until now. Cllr. Dowding said it was advertised in the newsletter when it was formed. The resident said she knew the B1122 could be used for Sizewell C but they did not know that the SLR would be constructed and she is worried that they will become a little island in between and she will not be able to access the countryside. The Chairman replied that he shared her concerns, it was terrible for everyone, but asked what did she want from the Council. The resident replied that she wanted representation. She said the B1122 Action Group were the cause of the SLR as they did not want the traffic going down the B1122. Cllr. Dowding replied that there was an alternate view that EDF want the SLR as they need the rubble for the construction site and that the SLR was not the route the B1122 asked for as they wanted the D2. A resident said that EDF has not made any contact with them but they have made contact with the Council and the B1122 Action Group. The Chairman agreed that there has been a lack of sufficient engagement on EDF's part with residents and landowners. Cllr. Dowding said the lack of engagement was raised with the Planning Inspectorate. Another resident asked if the B1122 Action Group has a Statement of Common Ground with EDF. Cllr. Dowding replied that it has but they have disagreed on every point. The resident asked if the B1122 Action Group was mentioned in the Deed of Obligation. Cllr. Dowding said it was permitted to engage with EDF. The resident asked if the B1122 Action Group was backed by the Council. Cllr. Dowding replied that it was not. Cllr. Dowding suggested that a group of residents could form an SLR Action Group if it wished and that it does not need to be formulated by the Council nor have a Council member on board.

A resident asked the Council to hold a public meeting to engage with the community and to find out what the residents want so that it can represent them. The Chairman agreed with this and said, if the DCO is approved, it would be sensible to call a public meeting.

A resident said that a farmer is needed on the Council. She said the Council co-opted a resident of Fordley but he is not a farmer and he does not understand the issues. Cllr. Lesley Taylor said this observation was not appropriate. She said a line needed to be drawn and agreement reached about how to move forward. She agreed that, if the DCO is approved, then there needs to be a public meeting to try to reach some common ground.

A resident said that keeping Fordley Road open was the majority view and that they do not have a voice and feel unrepresented. She said that EDF are putting in an attenuation pond and car park next to her house but that they cannot put in a footpath. The Chairman replied that he raised concerns about the attenuation ponds as he fears they will be practical and cheap and out of keeping with the landscape. A resident said the ponds will have access but the community will not. He said that we cannot wait until a decision is made and we need to make a plan now. He said EDF and Highways had raised queries about the underpass but the answers had never been considered. He said he has made a considerable investment so he could have proper representation at Council and EDF meetings. He said the only constraint to the underpass is money not engineering. He said EDF have money and we only need to get Highways to agree. The resident asked if there was a particular Councillor actively promoting the underpass option. The Chairman replied that the Council does not operate that way. The resident asked which group of Councillors is representing Fordley residents and who has contacted his consultants to discuss his underpass proposal. The Chairman responded that he had found the plans difficult to follow. The resident offered to explain the plans to the Council. The Chairman said he would take up that offer. The resident said that Cllr. Lacey was selected for his engineering background and asked if he will also attend the meeting. The Chairman replied that he could not speak for Cllr. Lacey. The resident said he has spent a great deal of money on the plans and he left the meeting. Another resident said there is a personal rift between the resident and the Council but the other residents do not want the same outcome, they only want access. She said that the Council wanted people from Fordley so that they could represent them. The Chairman replied that the Council had wanted a resident of Fordley to join the Parish Council. and that Cllr. Lacey has involved himself with all aspects of the

parish, particularly the Village Hall roof. The resident replied that Cllr. Lacey had led the discussion with EDF and Highways about Fordley Road. The Chairman agreed that he was part of the discussion. The Chairman said that there is a fear about property blight if the DCO is approved. The Clerk explained that many residents of Theberton and Eastbridge were arranging to have their properties valued now in order to substantiate a claim for blight in the future. The Chairman said this made sense so there is documented evidence of house values rather than anecdotal evidence.

Cllr. Dowding said the meeting with Declan Burke, Director of Nuclear Projects for BEIS, was unfortunately cancelled due to illness. The intention is to reschedule the visit for early next year. The Chairman said he and Cllr. Dowding will attend the meeting which comprises site visits and a lunch at Snape. The Chairman said two representatives from Town and Parish Councils, as well as NGOs, had been invited but it was not a public meeting.

A resident said that congestion can be managed in London therefore EDF can manage congestion on small roads. He asked if the Council has consulted with other parishes about how to manage congestion. Cllr. Dowding explained that congestion will not be caused by Sizewell C traffic but by local traffic. The Chairman said the Council has consulted with Kelsale Parish Council and they share the concerns about rat-running and he had consulted with Yoxford and Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Councils. The Chairman said he would also consult with Councils on the B1125. The resident said that a shared solution is needed to prevent Sizewell C traffic rat-running. Cllr. Dowding said that Highways reply was that rat-running in one parish is only a resident of another parish trying to get home. Another resident said there was a lot of conversations about rat-running but there has only been one incidence of congestion in many years. She said there are lots of incidents on the A12 and they do not all create rat-running in Fordley. She said EDF wants everyone to argue when all she wants is to be part of the village and it is wrong to completely sever the parish. She said the residents of Fordley Road do not feel they are being represented and she asked the Council to co-opt another resident to represent them. The Chairman replied that another resident can only be co-opted if a further vacancy arises and that another position cannot be created. The resident again raised the perceived rift between a resident and a certain Councillor. Cllr. Taylor said that this was not proper Council business and it was impossible for the Council to represent individual views as they had to represent everyone. The resident asked if the Council had put the majority view forward. The Chairman replied that it did put the majority view of the Parish Council forward in its written representations and at the Issue Specific Hearings. The resident said she did not know there had been a variation to the junction of the SLR and Fordley Road and it would have helped if this had been reported to the Parish. The Chairman replied that it was reported at this meeting and the meeting with EDF and Highways had only taken place last week.

b) District Cllr. Tom Daly said he understood how the residents felt and that he wished he could contribute more to the discussion but he could not. Cllr. Daly referred to the previously circulated monthly report from the Ward members. He reported that land agents for National Grid Ventures will be contacting local landowners early next year seeking permission to conduct ecological surveys in connection with the Nautilus Interconnector. He said the surveys do not mean that the land has been chosen for development but the implication is there.

#### **4. Minutes**

The Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

#### **5. Finance Advisory Group**

a) The Council noted the report from the Finance Advisory Group and agreed to move all the Recreation Ground expenses to the Trust which has significant funds. This will enable the Council to re-build reserves. The Council considered the draft budget for the financial year 2022/2023 as recommended by the Finance Advisory Group. It was agreed to accept the budget subject to an increase to the newsletter contribution to £450 to reflect the Council's share of the newsletter printing costs.

**ACTION: Clerk to upload the budget to the website.**

b) The Council agreed to set the parish precept for the financial year 2022/2023 at £8,270.22 which is an increase of £138.97 on the current year's precept. This is a charge of £40.10 per annum for a Band D property and will show as a 0% change on the Council Tax bill against the Parish element.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council.**

#### **6. Planning**

The Council agreed to support planning application DC/21/5337/FUL - extension to the existing dwelling. Comprising of a one and a half storey kitchen and bedroom extension to the rear, garden room to the side, and porch to the front - Valley View Cottage, Leiston Road.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the planning department.**

#### **7. Councillors' Reports**

a) Drop-In Centre – Cllr. Lesley Taylor reported that the centre will be open this week and then close for the Christmas break. Cllr. Taylor was authorised to use Drop-In Centre funds to send a Christmas card and a gift to a small number of vulnerable residents. Thanks were given to Cllr. Taylor for this initiative.

b) Village Hall - Cllr. Lynda Whitbread reported that the Committee are finalising the contract to repair the roof and work is expected to begin at the end of January/early February. Thanks were given to Cllr. Graham Lacey for his assistance with negotiating the terms of the contract,

c) Hastoe Housing – Cllr. Lesley Taylor reported that one Middleton resident had been allocated a house. The road is scheduled to be closed for three weeks in mid-January to surface the accessway, connect the drainage and realign the overhead wires.

d) Village Green – the Clerk reported that she is waiting for a response from District Cllr. Russ Rainger about a replacement bench.

## 8. Future Projects

Due to the lack of Councillors present, the Council postponed the discussion of future projects and the provision of a bus service in the parish.

**ACTION: Clerk to add to next agenda.**

## 9. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including receipts.

b) The Council approved the Community Infrastructure Levy report.

**ACTION: Clerk to submit to ESC and upload to the website.**

c) The Council authorised the payments below:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary (December 2021)	Sharon Smith	£228.40	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Salary (January 2022)	Sharon Smith	£251.20	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£52.54	LGA 1972 s.111
VAT Advice	CRASL Accounting Services	£34.50	LGA 1972 s.111
Drop In Centre Supplies	Lesley Taylor	£108.93	LGA 1972 s.19
Pavilion Electricity	British Gas	£25.89	LGA 1972 s.19

## 10. Administration

The Council agreed meeting dates for 2022.

**ACTION: Clerk to circulate and upload to the website.**

## 11. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

## 12. Next Meeting

The Council agreed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7:00 pm.

## MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST

1. The Council accepted the budget for the financial year 2022/2023.

2. The Council considered two quotations to replace the infant swing. It was agreed to accept the lower quote from Eastern Play Services Ltd for £2,869.95 plus VAT. It was also agreed to accept any reasonable increase to the quote as it is beyond the 30 day deadline.

**ACTION: Chairman to progress**

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

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## Diary Dates for 2022

### February

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> W.I. Village Hall - The Southwold Lifeboat -- Gary Doy, Operations Manager  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> NGS Snowdrop Festival, Manor House, **10am - 3pm**  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Platinum Jubilee initial meeting, Village Hall **3pm**

### March

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> W.I. Village Hall - Adders ~ Steve Everett (Minsmere Volunteer)  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> CHURCH SPRING CLEAN - 10-12 noon

### April

- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> W.I. Village Hall - Subs, Resolutions and Supper

### May

- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Village Hall AGM  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Community Council AGM - Village Hall 7.30pm  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting, 6pm Village Hall plus AGM **7pm**  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> W.I. Village Hall - Clarke's Butchers ~ Jeremy Thickitt

### June

- Saturday & Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Open Gardens  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> W.I. Village Hall - Nurses and Nursing ~ David Burgess

### July

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> W.I. Garden Party - Recreation Ground

### September

- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> W.I. Village Hall- The Thatcher and his Art ~ Dominic Meek (Master Thatcher)

### October

- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> W.I. Village Hall - Adnams ~ Andy Wood

### November

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> W.I. Village Hall - Her Infinite Variety ~ Simon Bridge (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre)

### December

- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> W.I. Village Hall - End of Year Celebration