

# MIDDLETON ~ CUM- FORDLEY



*View across the Moor to the 'umbrella tree'*

## NEWSLETTER

*February 2023*

## Editorial

Christmas has come and gone for another year – by all accounts the seasonal events in the village were well supported and successful. Advertisements for upcoming events are starting to arrive in my inbox. There is a summary of the newsletter accounts further on in this issue – unfortunately we ate into our reserves quite significantly in 2022. For those of you new to the village – a very warm welcome – we hope you will find the newsletter helpful and you can choose to receive it by email if you wish by contacting the editor. Any resident can submit articles of interest, the businesses that advertise usually give an annual donation, otherwise it is funded entirely by kind donations from individuals and village organisations. It has been providing information to residents since its inception in 1984. (so a 40th anniversary next year, I've been editor for 10 years in March of this year!)

A belated Happy New Year to all – let's hope we continue on the road to 'getting back to normal'.

Contributions for the next edition to me by email preferably as a WORD doc please to [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com) or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.**

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual. Also to be found on the Parish website. [www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk](http://www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk).

HSBC Middleton Newsletter sort code 40-28-33 account number 61054236
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### **Christmas Lunch 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

A huge "Thank You" to all who worked so hard to give us such a wonderful Christmas lunch.

From the moment we arrived at the Village Hall car park we were looked after. Jilly and Sicunder greeted us and escorted us into the hall where we were seated at the most beautifully decorated banquet table. What followed was a truly delicious Christmas lunch, all cooked by Lesley head Chef and a small team.

The waiter and waitress made sure we lacked for nothing, offering seconds and filling our glasses.

What a truly happy event made all the more special for meeting up with old friends we hadn't seen for a while.

Thank You Irene and Joy

Thank You to all who responded to my SOS prior to Christmas for the loan of a camp bed. The response was amazing, within half an hour of Barbara sending out my plea five of you got in touch and as the morning progressed yet more of you contacted me. Gemma kindly delivered a most excellent bed and over Christmas a grandson slept well.

Irene Ralph

Hi all - George here from Middleton Moor,

I am looking for someone to help improve my terrible computer skills ,as having worked as a musician and in the charity sector for many years my practical skills are my strengths , computers however are not!

I need help with compiling documents and uploading them so I can form a community interest company to help vulnerable in the area engage in creative activities . If anyone can help that would be great . I'm happy also to pay for someone to help me . Contact me on 07733386247 or email [georgefdrummer@gmail.com](mailto:georgefdrummer@gmail.com)

# QUIZ

## The Bell Inn Charity Quiz Night!

Come and join our first charity quiz night on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

Maximum of 6 members per team

Please feel free to bring a raffle prize

The winning team will choose the next charity!

Light meal during the evening provided

Quiz starts at 7pm

£7.50 Per Person

Booking is essential

01728 648286



Chef Josh from the Bell got married last Saturday- 21st January. Everyone at the Bell Inn would just like to congratulate Josh and his wife Megan and wish them well for a very happy future together.



Two Course £23.95

Three Course £28.95

### Valentines Menu

#### Starters

Prawn Cocktail, Mixed Salad, Toasted Sourdough (DF/GFO)

Baked Camembert To Share, Toasted Focaccia, Onion Marmalade

Roasted Carrot & cumin Soup Served With Warm Breads (VGN/ GFO)

Ham Hock Terrine, Piccalilli, Toasted Sourdough (DF)

#### Mains

Pan Fried Duck Breast, Potato Gratin, Celeriac Puree, Glazed Carrots & jus (GF)

Oven Roasted Sea Bass, Minted New Potatoes, Pea Puree & Samphire (GF)

The Bell Spaghetti & Meatballs Served with Garlic Bread & Parmesan

Pea, Mint & Broad Bean Risotto (VGN/GF)

#### Desserts

Warm Bakewell Tart, Chantilly Cream & Berry Compote

Lemon Posset, Winter Berries & Shortbread (GFO)

Strawberry & White Chocolate Parfait, Coconut Tuille & Fresh Strawberries (GFO)

Triple Chocolate Brownie, Chocolate Sauce, Salted Caramel Ice Cream

#### Gluten free / Vegan Desserts

Triple Chocolate Brownie, Chocolate Sauce, Vegan Vanilla Ice Cream





## Manor House Garden (Middleton) opening for the NGS Snowdrop Festival 26th February (11am-4pm)

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/37635/manor-house>

For 2023 Mandy & Steve are again opening their garden for the NGS Winter Season. Visitors can book via the website (link above) - or can pay at the gate. Cars will be directed to park at the Middleton Playing Field where visitors can access the garden from the fieldside to the back entrance - there will be direction signs on the day.

*This year we will also have a 'Secondhand Gardening Book Stall'. If you have any gardening books you no longer need and would be happy to donate - please do drop them off to us (at least a week beforehand please so we know how much space to allow!)*

The National Garden Scheme is an organisation close to our hearts - originally set up in 1927 to support district nurses, the NGS now raises money for nursing and health charities each year. They also support charities doing amazing work in gardens for health as well as grant bursaries to community gardening projects. All profits raised from our event will go to these NGS charities.

Please come along and share some time in the fresh(!) air - tickets could also make a great gift for someone you know!

### Middleton Open Gardens 2023 Would you be willing to share your garden?

We are starting to plan this year's event & we are keen to add to the already varied and wonderful gardens that we have previously been fortunate enough to enjoy as part of this weekend.

We love the wide range of gardens that we have open in Middleton; there are natural, formal, cottage, wildlife, courtyard, and gardens in progress, with people coming back time and again to see the development through to completion.

If you feel able to open your garden for a weekend in the summer, please text or call me.

Christine Burgess Tel: 07826 840478

MIDDLETON OPEN GARDENS



## Middleton-cum-Fordley W.I.



### December End of Year Celebration

Members and their guests came together in the festive Village Hall for the annual End of Year Celebration. Members brought along a varied selection of delicious food items for the buffet table whilst the smell of mulled wine filled the hall.

W.I. President Lynda welcomed everyone and thanked Clare, Jenny, Mark, Angela and Steve for setting up the hall and making it look so warm and welcoming. Lynda also thanked everyone for their generous food donations.

Before proceedings began Lynda gave a special welcome to our W.I. adviser who is retiring after many years of giving her time

and supportive knowledge to so many local W.I. groups in this area. Gwyneth was given a card and a plant to show our appreciation.

Hebe played some beautiful festive music for us all whilst everyone tucked into the buffet and tackled another of Caroline's challenging quizzes.

At the end of the evening, having found the winners of the quiz and the raffle, Lynda again thanked everyone for their generosity and support shown towards Middleton-cum-Fordley W.I. particularly those on the committee who have gone above and beyond their roles to ensure our W.I. continues to grow in strength.

The new programme of speakers that Clare has put together so diligently is now available and looks to ensure everyone will be enlightened and entertained in 2023.

The evening closed with good wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

*If you are interested in finding out about the W.I. please contact Lynda on 01728 668977.*

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# Sing Out!

Join us

We are particularly seeking tenor and bass voices



Rehearsals at St Peter's Church, Yoxford.

Wednesdays at 19.30

Email: [singoutyoxford@gmail.com](mailto:singoutyoxford@gmail.com)

[www.singoutyoxford.com](http://www.singoutyoxford.com)

## WI News

At our January 2023 meeting Gary Doy came to talk about his service with the Southwold Lifeboat. He has recently retired but his service began in 1980 when he needed to be rescued. Before they would, he was made to promise that he himself would join the lifeboat crew! A fisherman by trade, his father and his grandfather had also been lifeboat volunteers. He worked his way up from "newbie" crew to Station Operations Manager who says nay or yay to the boat going out. On the books there are 19 crew and a doctor.



Training used to be done as you went along with a year's probation before you were allowed to join permanently. Now the training is by the book and there is even a Lifeboat College in Poole.

The beginning of the Southwold Lifeboat service was in 1841 when there were two boats on the beach. In 1928 the boats were moved to the harbour and in 1940 the largest boat went to Dunkirk. After the war a small boat was kept in the garage of the Harbour Inn and a slipway was used to launch into the river. Now, kept in the "Shed" in the harbour and launched by crane and pushed out on tracks into the water, is a state of the art Atlantic 85 inflatable boat. Hand built on the Isle of Wight, this £250 million craft ( donated by Tranmere House Sutton Hoo) can go 6.2 knots (45 mph), has an electronic plotter with screen ( olden day crew, being fisherman, would use the map of the sea that was in their heads), uses water as ballast in the bow and is open at the back. The crew of four are strapped in by their feet: helmsman, radio operator, navigator, and "eyes" at the back (usually a newbie). When there is a call, the boat can be launched in 10 or 11 minutes. Every volunteer has their own kit hanging in the shed. The kit consists of a full body fleece that goes under an all-in-one waterproof suit with boots attached and many outside pockets for gloves, medical cards etc. The lifejacket has satellite positioning, flares, whistle, hood with windscreen and buddy lines to hook members together if needed. When inflated the jacket can act as a liferaft. The crash helmet has inflatable insides for a secure fit and a microphone to talk to other crew.

The "shouts" are usually for breakdowns, dogs in the river, kite surfers, swimmers, searches, and drifting inflatables. If any medical treatment is given during the rescue, it must be recorded on the medical card accurately. Unfortunately litigation is common these days, people will sue even when being rescued. There are about 18-19 shouts a year in the Southwold-Sizewell area, a reduction compared to past years which might be due to better health and safety education of the public.

Recruitment for the lifeboat these days is getting harder. There are not as many young people living and working locally as there were and fewer businesses who are willing to let their employees go off when needed. In the past most of the lifeboat volunteers were fisherman or worked for Adnams Brewery. Gary gave us a very interesting and informative talk and after asking him many questions and thanking him, it was time for tea.

In February we shall have our "Christmas" lunch instead of an evening meeting.

LV

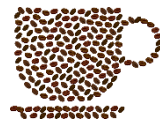
### Coronation of King Charles III – May 6<sup>th</sup>

Advance notice : There are plans being prepared for a village celebration/party on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> as the designated day for street parties etc.



More details will follow in due course. Watch this space!!





## Thursday Morning Drop In - Village Hall

We were pleased to re-open our weekly 'Drop In' on 5<sup>th</sup> January and to welcome back some residents who have not met up for some time. As well as filter coffee/tea and cake or a toasted teacake, we now serve homemade soup and a roll from 12 midday, all totally free.

The Village Hall has free Wifi and the use of a laptop and printer if you need to complete or send off any forms and there is always someone who is computer savvy to help if needed.

These sessions are run by a few volunteers and are funded by small Community Grants from East Suffolk Council and are **open to all, not just the misconception it's only for our more senior residents.** Please feel free to join us from 11am – 1pm and any time in between. If you are new to the village it's a nice informal way to get to know a few people. If you live alone it's a great way to get some company once a week.

WHY NOT GIVE US A TRY?

For further information or if you require transport please ring Lesley on 07970257329



Save the date

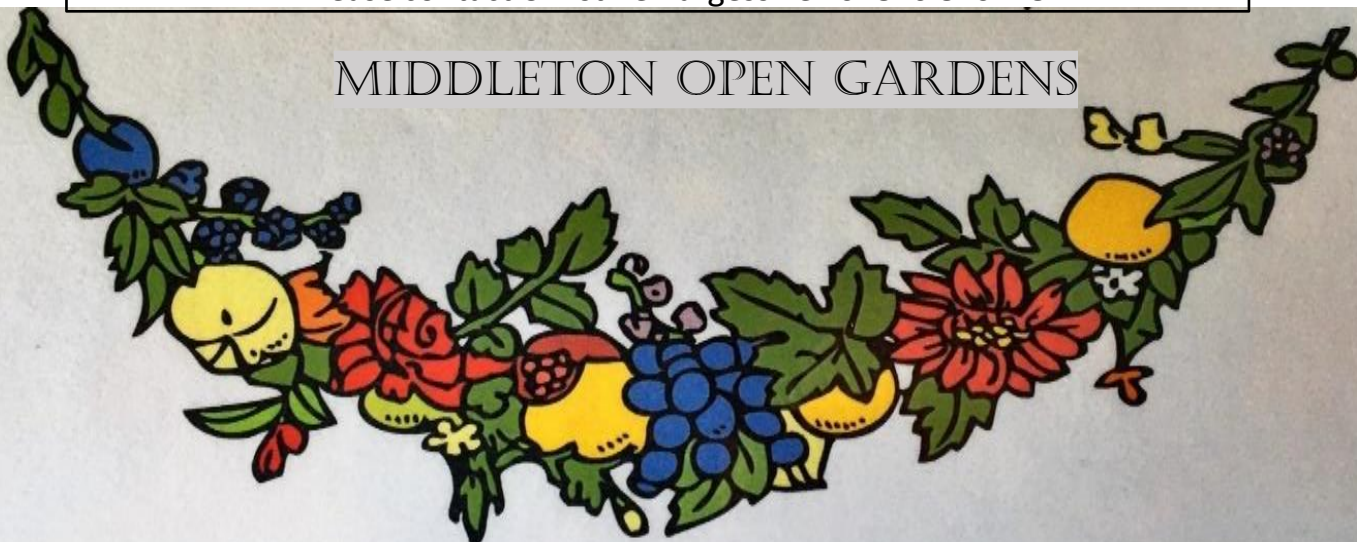
Middleton Open Gardens

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June

With some of the team retiring last year, we are keen to welcome anyone who would like to help in making this popular village event a success. From making cakes to erecting marquees, serving teas to opening your garden, we would value your contribution

Please contact Christine Burgess Tel: 07826 840478

MIDDLETON OPEN GARDENS



# HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY



## Services during February

Sunday 12 February	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 19 February	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 26 February	11am Holy Communion

*The Benefice service this month will be at Peasenhall on Sunday 5 February at 10am.*

*The Ash Wednesday Benefice Holy Communion with Ashing will be held at Westleton on Wednesday 22 February at 10am.*

*Please come along*

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## Christmas Services and Events

### A Review

Kindly put together by Paul and Margaret Taylor

**THE GENIUS OF CHARLES DICKENS:** Presented in great style by our very own Mark Mitchels who gave us an outstanding illustrated talk on this flawed genius. The talk lead us though the times and achievements of Dickens, which were many and extensive. Mark also brought Dickens to life with extracts from his published works. He also put Dickens into context for the Victorian age. It was lovely to see a good crowd, despite the very cold weather.

As always very many thanks to Mark for all his work to prepare and present this talk.

**CAROL SERVICE:** This was to be on the green but the weather was so wet that it was moved into the church. At first, we thought everyone had gone home but close to the scheduled time many villagers and friends arrived to enjoy the service in the dry. A warm welcome of mulled wine and mince pies awaited them within.

Rev. Tim officiated (this time without his guitar) readings were beautifully read and all are to be congratulated – especially the youngest reader, Master Percy Reynolds, who read so well and really stepped up to occasion.

The melodious music was provided by mother and daughter team from the musical Cooke family. They elevated the music to a higher level and at the end everyone remained seated to enjoy the closing piece and give a sounding round of very well-deserved applause.

It was delightful to see so many people enjoying the carol service and maybe next year it will be dry enough to return to the village green.


Many thanks to everyone involved in this Middleton carol service and to all who contributed to the retiring collection which, as ever, will go to The Children's Society.

**MIDNIGHT MASS:** It was a starlit night as people made their way to Middleton Church for the midnight service. The church was almost full for this important service with Rev. Tim officiating. As always it is an uplifting start to Christmas, and all went home well satisfied at its conclusion.

**CHURCH DECORATION:** Very many thanks to Jack Rosenthal for the magnificent tree and very special thanks to Mark and Liz for its decoration, the (flashing) lights and the crib and to everyone who joined the Holy Dusters to make sure the church was looking its best for Christmas.



## Holy Dusters

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none...with many thanks to everyone who helped at the Christmas clean 

2023

8 February - Irene and Amanda

22 February - Margaret and Nicola

8 March - Val and Camilla

22 March - Liz and Mark



### Give and Take Food Bank

**(this may now include essential toiletries)**

In the light of the generous response to the Harvest Festival food basket, we are continuing to trial a small 'give and take' food bank at the back of the church. People are welcome to either donate or collect dried and tinned food as their circumstances allow. Any food remaining at the end of each month is being delivered to the foodbanks in Saxmundham and Leiston.

With thanks to all who have already contributed.

### Thought for the month

‘Do not hesitate to love and to love deeply.’ Henri Nouwen

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## Could you volunteer with Framlingham & Saxmundham Cats Protection?



We had a very busy year in 2022 and our fosterers were in danger of being overrun with kittens. With the cost of living crises deepening we expect to have another frantic year as we are seeing more and more people having to give up their cats or not being able to cover the cost of getting their young cats neutered.

To raise both money and awareness of what we do, we need to continue attending shows and events throughout the year. To continue to do this we also need more volunteers to help with these events.

We are in need of a Fundraising Coordinator and Fundraisers:

**Do you love cats? Are you confident, enjoy socialising, meeting people, having fun? Would you like to know you are helping cats and kittens? If this is you then why not consider volunteering with us? We are seeking volunteer fundraisers to attend events and also someone to help organise fundraising activities. You do not need experience as training and support are given. To find out more call us on 01728 723499 or email: [enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.**

See our website: [www.cats.org.uk/framandsax](http://www.cats.org.uk/framandsax) email: [enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@framandsax.cats.org.uk), or telephone 01728 723499 for more information about adopting cats in our care; how to become a member of the branch; event dates; neutering; cat-care leaflets; how to become a volunteer fundraiser or fosterer, make a donation and other ways you can support us.



New to the village and wondering what you might like to join in with?

Looking for a new activity ? Here are some contacts for various things:



WI – meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Contact Lynda [01728 668977](tel:01728668977).

Carpet bowls – meet on a Thursday evening - [Barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:Barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com)

Cribbage – league matches are on Tuesdays from September to April – [Barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:Barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com)

Occasional crib drives and informal sessions in the off-season.

Boules/Petanque - open sessions at the Bell Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10.am [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com)

Community Council Secretary if you like volunteering at events – [tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com](mailto:tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com)

Coffee morning drop in – Lesley 07970257329

Open Gardens – Christine 07826840478

Pilates – [victoriahaydenpilates@gmail.com](mailto:victoriahaydenpilates@gmail.com)

## February Nature Notes

Most hedgerows in this area of Suffolk date from the piecemeal enclosure of land before the seventeenth century, with many dating from medieval times. The original purpose of hedges was to provide a stock proof barrier, with an extra benefit of providing sources of wood for building and other countryside trades. Traditionally hedge laying is usually thought of as the main method of management, but often in Suffolk coppicing (cutting to ground level) was practised. When hedges were being coppiced the associated ditch was usually scoured. The soil dug out was dumped on to the adjacent hedge bank; explaining the traditional legal position regarding boundaries, which are deemed to run not along the line of the hedge but along the further side of the ditch.



Today hedges are primarily valued for their scenic qualities and for their roles as habitats for wildlife. In an agricultural landscape hedgerows provide the greatest source of biodiversity; over 2000 insect species alone are associated with hedges. However, a number of issues influence the wildlife value of each hedge. Factors such as, the botanical composition, both of the shrubs which form the hedge and the associated ground flora, the structure of the hedge and associated features, how the hedge connects with others and with other habitat features, as well as the hedgerow management regime. For instance, hawthorn has over 200 associated insect species, whereas holly has only 10 and a mixed species hedge that provides a continuous display of flowers is more important for many bees, wasps and flies than single species hedges. Likewise, hedgerows that form part of a network that connects other habitats such as woods, meadows and streams and hedges that have associated banks, verges and ditches, or have a number of hedgerow trees have greater ecological value.

Management is essential; hedges that are cut regularly can have great wildlife diversity, although other studies have shown that less intensive management, especially of hedgerow bottoms aids diversity. Ideally the hedge should be thick and bushy, an A-shaped hedge provides maximum protection for wildlife, as this type is more beneficial especially to many birds than thin straggly hedges. Hedges should only be cut in winter, ideally in early February. Hedge maintenance should not be done between March and August as birds are nesting, and it is illegal to intentionally damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird. If possible delay maintenance until late autumn, as fruits are valuable food for birds. As fruit is usually borne on last year's growth it is usually better to cut hedges every other year. Different hedge sizes, types and features are of value to different species, so the best hedges for wildlife have a varied character along their length and will attract a wider range of wildlife.

Peter Vincent

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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.



**The Friends of Middleton School**  
invite you to battle your wits...

# **QUIZ NIGHT**

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**7:30 start**

**At Middleton Village Hall**

**Tables of up to 6**

**£5 per person**

**Nibbles Cash Bar Raffle**

To book your table contact Rebecca

[curlyreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:curlyreynolds@gmail.com)

All proceeds to Middleton School PTA

Dear customer,



Ten years ago, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favourite charities. However, since launch, the programme has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped.

AmazonSmile represents a very small portion of the total charitable contributions made through our other programmes, which we estimate at more than £100 million in 2021.

We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other programmes that we know will have more impact—from providing support to families in need, to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist communities impacted by natural disasters.

We recognise that these are difficult times for everyone, including charities, so we are providing an additional one-time donation to participating charities equivalent to six months of what they earned through the programme in 2022, and they will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February. Once AmazonSmile closes, charities will still be able to seek support from Amazon customers by creating their [their own wish lists](#).

As a company, we will continue supporting a wide range of partnerships that help thousands of charities and communities across the UK. For example:

- We are increasing our support for a [charity coalition led by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown](#) that has donated essential products to more than 50,000 families in need.
- We recently announced a new partnership with Comic Relief that began with our support for the [Comic Relief Cost of Living Appeal](#), which supports families across the UK and alleviates pressures caused by rising costs.
- Our [product donation programmes](#) continue to help people and families in need, providing more than 15 million essential goods in the last year alone. These include In Kind Direct, a partnership that supports more than 2,000 charities with donations that help more than 250,000 people every single week.
- We have also launched a new [Amazon for Charities store](#) which allows charities to raise money by selling products on Amazon and collecting 100% of profits. Today the store features Macmillan Cancer Support, Royal British Legion, the Natural History Museum, Marie Curie and we are adding more charities all of the time.

On top of this work, we will continue to invest in our capabilities to support communities in the UK and abroad every day and in times of crisis. So far, for example, we've partnered with [Magic Breakfast](#) to deliver more than 6.6 million free breakfasts to thousands of children across the country, and we delivered more than 7 million COVID-19 test kits across the UK during the pandemic. We have also been [using our logistics](#) capabilities to help people affected by the war in Ukraine. Globally, we've provided more than \$75 million in support including millions of critical relief items - from medical supplies to blankets, food, books and devices for refugees, working closely with charities such as Save The Children.

We'll continue working to making a difference in many ways, but our long-term commitment to our communities remains the same: we are determined to help create a better world for our customers, our employees, and the communities we serve across the country.

Thank you for being an Amazon customer.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED THE VILLAGE HALL THROUGH AMAZON SMILE NO MATTER HOW SMALL YOUR PURCHASES.**

## Newsletter Summary of accounts for 2022

Newsletter <b>INCOME 2022</b>		Newsletter <b>EXPENDITURE 2022</b>	
		Leiston Press 1 issue @ £142 (March)	£ 142.00
Individual donations during the year	£ 360.00	Leiston Press 1 issue @ £144 (Sept)	£ 144.00
Advertisers	£ 180.00		
Parish Council	£ 300.00	Leiston Press 1 issue @ £150 (April)	£ 150.00
WI	£ 125.00		
Christmas Greetings	£ 330.00	Leiston Press 1 issue @ £161 (Feb)	£ 161.00
		Leiston Press 2 issues @ £166 (Oct. Nov)	£ 332.00
<b>Total income 2022</b>	<b>£ 1295.00</b>	Leiston Press 4 issues @ £171 (May, June, July, Aug)	£ 684.00
Carry Forward 01/01/2022	£ 1709.12	Leiston Press 1 issue @ £196 (Dec)	£ 196.00
<b>Total with carry forward</b>	<b>£ 3004.12</b>	Bank charges	£ 63.20
		PDF converter	£ 21.14
		Annual petrol for collection & delivery	£ 24.00
		Macafee anti-virus for laptop	£ 50.00
		<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£ 1967.34</b>

The newsletter expenditure exceeded the income in 2022 by £672.34 – a big jump from last year's deficit £ 364.51. When the carry forward is added we have a balance of £1036.78 - considerably less than 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 which was £1709.12

Printing costs for Leiston Press have inevitably gone up, the costs vary depending on the number of pages per edition and the number of copies printed which now stands at 115 (around half of the village) with more people requesting to go back to paper, or new residents coming in that I don't have emails for. It is a possibility in the future that we may have to go back to black and white printing instead of colour which would be a shame as the people receiving email versions would still see it in colour .

HSBC introduced monthly charges in 2022 with additional charges for depositing cheques.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and donations, particularly the Christmas greetings which raised almost as much as the rest of the year of individual ones. (not too late if you forgot!) Thank you too, to our regular team of deliverers - Diane, Mark, Val, Angela, Bev, Lesley, Renny, Jean, Liz, June - Jackie who has kindly taken over Rectory Road deliveries most of the time – and Irene who stands in from time to time.

Remember donations can be made by BACS or cash through my letter box at 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road.

<p>HSBC Middleton Newsletter sort code 40-28-33 account number 61054236</p>
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### Middleton Weather 2022

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
17.5	57	23	9	31	37	1.5	1.5	55.5	50	140	56	479

Rainfall in mm - 2022 has been the driest year since 1996 when the total rainfall then was recorded as 453mm.

With thanks to Clive Watts



# MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022  
AT 7:00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

## 1. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack - Chair  
Cllr. Chris Reynolds  
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread

### In attendance:

Sharon Smith – Clerk/RFO  
District Cllr. Tom Daly  
No members of the public

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Roy Dowding – written and accepted  
Cllr. Lesley Taylor – written and accepted  
Cllr. Steve Thorpe – written and accepted  
Cllr. Graham Lacey – written and accepted  
Cllr. Charles Macdowell – written and accepted  
County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Russ Rainger  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

## 2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Chris Reynolds declared an interest in item 7.

## 3. Public Forum

District Cllr. Tom Daly summarised his previously circulated report. Highlights included: the launch of the Field to Fork scheme which offers grants of up to £2,000 to community farms and allotments; the launch of a Cost of Living Community Grant Fund which enables voluntary organisations and community groups to support individuals and families who are struggling with the cost of living crisis; a network of thirty-one Warm Rooms are open across Suffolk; the East Suffolk Walking and Cycling Strategy has been adopted; and free parking is available in ESC car parks on selected dates over the Christmas period. Further details about the highlighted items are available on ESC's website or from the Ward Members. Cllr. Daly concluded his report by informing the Council that it may apply for membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Group if it wishes.

## 4. Vacancies

- a) The Council noted the resignation of the Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. The Chairman advised that the vacancy had been advertised in the village newsletter and on the Suffolk Association of Local Councils website.
- b) There were no applications for the Councillor vacancy.

5. **Minutes** The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## 6. Finance Advisory Group

- a) The Council considered the report and draft budget for the financial year 2023-2024 from the Finance Advisory Group. It was agreed to accept the budget.

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

- b) The Council agreed to set the parish precept for the financial year 2023/2024 at £8,829.00. This is a charge of £42.11 per annum for a Band D property and will show as a 5% change on the Council Tax bill against the Parish element.

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

## 7. Planning

Due to the declaration of interest by Cllr. Chris Reynolds, the Council was not quorate to consider planning application DC/22/4430/FUL – Demolition of existing two storey dwelling to propose new replacement dwelling – Hill House, Title Road. It was agreed to convene an extraordinary meeting to consider the application.

**ACTION: Clerk to circulate dates for an extraordinary meeting.**

## 8. Energy Projects

- a) The Chairman said the minutes from the latest Sizewell C B1122 Early Years Working Group meeting were not yet available and would be circulated to the Councillors in due course.

**ACTION: Clerk to circulate minutes.**

b) The Chairman reported on the first joint meeting of neighbouring Parish Councils to consider EDF and SCC Highways' proposals for the B1122 and B1125 during the Early Years' phase. Representatives from Theberton and Eastbridge, Blythburgh, Westleton and Yoxford Parish Councils attended. Apologies were received from Kelsale, Darsham and Walberswick Parish Councils. The Chairman and Cllr. Lynda Whitbread said the meeting was useful to share information and experience about the interventions in other parishes. The Clerk's notes will be circulated to Councillors shortly. The group agreed to meet again in February 2023.

**ACTION: Clerk to circulate notes.**

c) The Council approved the Chairman's response to the National Grid Sea Link public consultation.

**ACTION: Clerk to submit.**

## 9. Councillors' and Clerk's Reports

a) Drop-In Centre – the Council noted the receipt of an ESC Cost of Living Grant for £1,000 to support the Drop-In Centre. Cllr. Lynda Whitbread reported that the Centre has been well attended and a Christmas lunch has been arranged for nineteen residents on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The Centre will then take a break over Christmas and resume on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The Council approved expenditure of up to £100 from the grant in response to Cllr. Lesley Taylor's request to fund Christmas hampers for the most vulnerable in the parish who are unable to attend the Christmas lunch.

b) Middleton Moor – the Chairman reported that a meeting of the Moor Management Group has been arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 which he and Cllr. Lynda Whitbread will attend.

e) ESC Community Partnership – the Chairman reported that he attended the latest meeting of the partnership which has a fund of £25,000 per annum to spend on community initiatives. The partnership is hoping to offer a grant scheme to support capital expenditure on village halls for replacement heating systems, electric vehicle car chargers and insulation. There was also a discussion about expanding youth activities in the area.

## 10. Administration

a) The Council conducted the annual review of the Risk Assessment and approved the changes.

b) The Council agreed to appoint the Suffolk Association of Local Councils as internal auditor.

c) The Council agreed meeting dates for 2023.

## 11. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position and verified last month's approved payments.

b) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for Quarter 2 2022-2023.

c) The Council agreed to fund the Quiet Lanes signage from Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

d) The Council agreed to donate £100 to the Citizens' Advice Service – East Suffolk.

e) The Council authorised the following payments:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£351.40	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's PAYE	HM Revenue and Customs	£27.60	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£40.79	LGA 1972 s.111
Bank Charges	HSBC	£8.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Drop In Centre Expenses	Lesley Taylor	£46.96	LGA 1972 s.137
Drop In Centre Expenses	Lesley Taylor	£108.93	LGA 1972 s.137
Quiet Lanes Signage	Suffolk County Council	£200.00	RTRA 1984 s.72

## 12. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

## 13. Next Meeting

The Council agreed the date and time of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7:30 pm.

**LOST** - black Surefire torch with a black cord wrist strap – on the playing field in December .

Please contact Brian 07966276525 if you have seen/found it. Thanks.

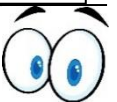
# 100 years old

Starting life in 1923 as the WI hall, what we now know as our Village Hall is 100 this year. The Management Committee are planning a centenary archive weekend in the summer to mark this occasion. Does anyone have in their family archives anything relevant to the hall or its events from any time in the past 100 years? If so we would love to see them and hopefully make a copy for our display.

We are holding a planning meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb so any items could be brought to the hall that afternoon for copying or emailed to [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com)

Thank you.

*Looking for a venue?*



## **Middleton Village Hall may be the right place.**

We can offer a main hall, small committee room and lovely new kitchen installed in lockdown but which hasn't had much use yet! New blinds were fitted recently replacing the old curtains. Chairs, tables, crockery, glasses and cutlery are all available as you would expect, as are some 4' x 4' stage sections, a table tennis table, a free standing projector screen, and reasonable parking with 2 designated disabled spaces. Wifi is also installed and hiring rates are very reasonable. Heating works off coin operated meters.

Current activities are Pilates, Carpet bowls, Coffee morning, Patchwork quilting, WI, and various committee meetings.

The heating system, according to professional surveys, provides adequate Kw for the size of the hall, and a new heater has recently been installed replacing the broken one. There are heaters in the toilets and kitchen also.

To book the hall contact Richard on [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com)

## Middleton Community Council

**MCC donated £216 each to Shelter and the Leiston Food Bank from the raffle and donations boxes at their Christmas event at the Bell. Many thanks to all who came and supported it.**

### 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, camera lenses, 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:** [tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com](mailto:tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com) Central House, The Street.





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**ORLANDO HANNON**  
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 07770 617050 / 07815 295927

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~~~~~



### Diary Dates 2023

#### February

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Prayer, Holy Trinity 11am
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Charity Quiz, The Bell 7pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall 7pm
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Prayer, Holy Trinity 11am
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Copy date for next full newsletter
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion 11am
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Manor House Snowdrop Festival 11am - 4pm

#### March

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall 7pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Village Hall - Victoria Hayden, Pilates 7.15pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's Night at The Bell - live music with Silmor 8pm
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Middleton School PTA Quiz 7.30pm

#### April

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall 7pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Village Hall - Supper, Subs & Resolutions 7.15pm

#### May

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	"Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from 8pm
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Coronation celebrations
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting, Village Hall 7pm
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	MC AGM
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	WI - Village Hall - Richard Allenby-Pratt - 'The Suffolk Project' 7.15pm

## June

Thursday 1st "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**  
Sat/Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Open Gardens  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> WI - Village Hall - Sylvia Hawes - 'Guide Dogs' **7.15pm**  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> MCC outdoor quiz - Recreation Ground **6.30pm** (Village Hall if wet)

## July

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Summer boules - Recreation Ground **10am**  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> WI -Garden Party  
Sat/Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> /23<sup>rd</sup> Centenary Archives for the Village Hall

## August

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Fete

## September

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> WI - Village Hall - Steve Everett - Red Deer **7.15pm**

## October

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Autumn Fair  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> WI - Village Hall - Katie Osborn - 'Beach bonkers' **7.15pm**

## November

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> WI - Village Hall - Cheese & Wine evening + AGM **7.15pm**

## December

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Santa Boules - Recreation Ground **10am**  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from **8pm**  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> MCC Christmas Party  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting, Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> WI - Village Hall - Christmas celebration **7.15pm**