

MIDDLETON ~ CUM- FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

July 2023

Editorial

Following the Open Gardens theme I have used a couple of photos of the horse chestnut trees near the playing field – showing how beautiful the flowers are. The top picture is Rita's tulip tree which unfortunately only came into flower the week after open gardens!

Lots of adverts for upcoming events in this issue, something for everyone I'm sure, along with reports on ones that have already happened.

Contributions for the next edition to me by email preferably as a WORD doc please to barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 25th July**.

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

Donations may be made to:
HSBC
Middleton Newsletter
sort code 40-28-33
account number 61054236



TEAM: MuddyPrem: Archie, Percy, Lucas and Angus

We are taking part in the Piglet, Junior Hog 2023 in aid of East Anglia's Children's Hospices on 9th July. The Piglet, Junior Hog is a fun-filled 4k complete with **obstacles, water and lots of mud!** Just right for us!



EACH cares for children and young people with life-threatening conditions across Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. The key services which they provide include: specialist nursing care, symptom management nursing, short breaks, wellbeing activities, therapies, counselling and family support; all meeting the individual needs of the child, young person and whole family.

Please Sponsor us online: <https://eastangliaschildrenshospices.enthuse.com/pf/archie-reynolds>
or we have a [sponsorship form](#).

We and EACH would really appreciate any sponsorship you can manage.

Middleton Village Summer Fete

Saturday 26th August 2pm Recreation Ground

CAN YOU HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?

We are asking for anyone who can help to please let the Community Council know

Contacts: Barbara - barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com
Trish - tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com
Richard - jenricht@btinternet.com
Rebecca - curlyreynolds@gmail.com

So could **YOU** help with the setting up on Friday or Saturday, help on a stall, be part of the car park/marshalling team or help with the clearing up afterwards? All offers are gratefully received.

Thank you. Rebecca – Chair of MCC

Piano Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Middleton

3pm Sunday 22nd October



Many Middleton residents will know Reiko Fujisawa who, when work allows, lives in the village. What many might not know is that Reiko is an internationally renowned concert pianist (see brief biography below and her website: www.reikofujisawa.com). She has felt so welcomed in the village that she has offered to give a concert in the church at **3pm on Sunday October 22nd**. Middleton residents will have 'first refusal' on tickets so we are publicising this early in our newsletter before we advertise further afield. The concert will see music from Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert and Sarasate, and Reiko will perform with the renowned violinist Ofer Falk.

Ticket prices are set simply to cover costs (not least hiring and moving a Steinway piano!) and will be available for just £15. These can be reserved by emailing Paul Taylor (from The Old Post Office) on taylspaul@gmail.com. Paul will then contact you with payment details. Tickets will be allocated on a strictly first-come-first-served basis. The concert will be opened up to non-Middleton residents from August 1st and we expect strong interest, so if you want to be sure of reserving a place for this very special occasion then do contact Paul asap.

Reiko Fujisawa fuses the sensibilities of a musician raised in the Far East who trained in the West. She appears at prestigious venues and festivals all over the UK and overseas including Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, King's Place, Stoller Hall, Brighton Festival and Hebden Bridge Piano Festival, and was a featured artist at the Japan 2001 Festival. Reiko has broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and her recordings include an acclaimed CD of music by Bach, Beethoven and Schubert, which The Arts Desk found "irresistible". Her recording of Bach's Goldberg Variations also received a glowing review from The Record Geijutsu, Japan's equivalent to The Gramophone, describing it as an "unpretentious, clean and refreshing performance with a refined dignity". Her most recent project is "Nature & Music", a series of four chamber music programmes that focus on the tangible and spiritual aspects of nature and aim to inspire audiences to admire the beauty and importance of the natural world through music, and to think about our environment from a fresh perspective.



Cake and Coffee Club

Every Thursday Morning in The Village Hall – all welcome

10.45 am to 12 pm

Please let Lynda know if you would like a lift Tel: 01728 668977

Supported by The Community Council and Village Hall Management.

With a special event on July 13th - see next page.



Middleton-cum-Fordley Big Brew

Village Hall

July 13th at 10.45 am till 12.

Come and join us for tea and a delicious selection of homemade cakes. Donations to Colchester and Ipswich Hospital Trusts.

Contact Lynda if you require a lift on 01728 668977.



Summer boules tournament for the Middleton Cock Trophy

Saturday 15th July 10am

Middleton Recreation Ground, Fletcher's Lane

Entry fee £1 per person (towards prizes)



Even if you have never picked up a boule come along to the Playing Field and enjoy this annual mini-tournament. Open to all, temporary residents welcome.

Come as a pair (or on your own and we will attempt to pair you up.) The trophy will be awarded to the winning pair to be held for one year and then returned. Please arrive by 9.45am for a prompt start. Instruction given in the basic rules if required.

Boules available or bring your own.

Tea, coffee or ice cream cornets available. Scones kindly donated by the Open Gardens team.

Please register with Richard beforehand

jenricht@btinternet.com or 01728 648345

1923 -2023



Middleton-cum-Fordley Village Hall Centenary

The Village Hall was originally built as a meeting place for the Women's Institute and was also suitable for other communal village events as it had a stage and a small kitchen and was heated by a coal fired boiler.

The cost of the building was around £300 (over £23,000 today) and was supported by a loan secured through Lady Hambling and Sir Guy Hambling of Rookery Park Yoxford. Fundraising and public subscription ensured that by the time the building had been completed under the able supervision of local builder Mr S. Free, two thirds of this sum had already been raised.

There was great excitement on the opening day and many people gathered early for the ceremony. Upon entering, a speech outlining the aims of the WI was delivered by the President. There were numerous stalls and a 'fine art gallery' under the management of Miss Hart.

In the early evening Sir Guy Hambling presented a cinema show (film unknown) which was followed by a Whist Drive of eighteen tables. A newspaper report describes the prizes as 'of a very valuable nature'. Various draws and competitions contributed to £20 (£1500 today!) being raised towards the cost of the building and it was hoped that the remaining amount would be paid off during the winter months.

The article, entitled Middleton's Red Letter Day, concludes:

'Although small, the Middleton Branch of the Women's Institute, has big ideals and furthermore has the will to achieve them. May the same success which has rewarded its activities in the past continue with it during the coming months—and always.'

Those members would be amazed and very pleased to know that the organisation still continues 100 years later.

The Centenary celebrations will take place over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 22nd/23rd July 2023 between 11am and 4pm each day.

There will be light refreshments including centenary cakes, provided by a team of volunteers including members of the WI, along with displays of books and pictures connected with the village and a photographic exhibition.

There will be a competition for the best collaged picture of the village hall – any medium can be used. A photo of the hall is provided at the end of this newsletter for those who wish to participate. It can be cut out and used as a template, or you can cover it with collage, or just use it for reference - up to you. Please keep to the A4 size though as space to display will be limited. Please bring entries to the hall from 3pm on Friday 21st July.

A rolling slide show will present events from around the world which have taken place each year over the last century along with music from past decades.

A large commemorative 100% cotton tea towel with an original black and white photograph of the Trustees and Committee members outside the new building will be on sale for £5 each, all funds going to the upkeep and maintenance of the hall.

The hall is still well used throughout the week for a variety of activities and has recently seen many upgrades and renovations including a new kitchen, new lighting, new pitched and flat roofs, improved toilet facilities, double glazing, broadband connection, internal re-painting, designated disabled parking area, planting on the outside bank, and during the summer will have the original wooden floor sanded and sealed.

So please take the opportunity to come along and see the many photographs and items held in the Archive on open display in the Village Hall and please remember to bring some cash to buy a tea towel or two!

Village Hall Committee 2023.



MIDDLETON BELL - VINYL NIGHT 1st ANNIVERSARY



Saturday 8th July is the first anniversary of “*Vinyl night*” at The Bell.

Most slots have already been taken so come along and enjoy the different musical genres chosen by resident Middletonians from early doors well into the evening. Dancing and singing along actively encouraged. Re-live your youth with tunes you thought you'd forgotten. Maybe hear a few you've never heard before.



THE BELL INN MIDDLETON
 SUMMER OPENING HOURS
 TEL. 01728 648286

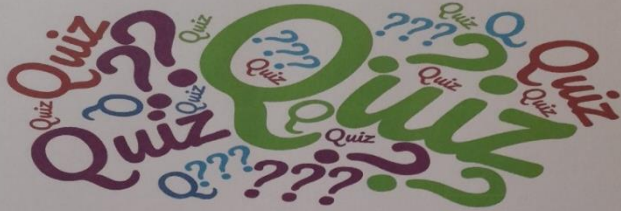
BAR

MONDAY 12PM – 4PM
 TUESDAY 12PM – 11PM
 WEDNESDAY 12PM – 11PM
 THURSDAY 12PM – 11PM
 FRIDAY 12PM – 11PM
 SATURDAY 12PM – 11PM
 SUNDAY 12PM – 7PM

FOOD SERVED

MONDAY - CLOSED
 TUESDAY 12PM – 2.30PM / 6PM – 9PM
 WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY 12PM – 2.30PM / 6PM – 9PM
 SUNDAY 12PM – 4PM


BOOKING ADVISABLE, PLEASE MAKE US AWARE OF ANY DIETRY REQUIREMENTS WHEN BOOKING.



The Bell Inn Charity Quiz Night!

Come and join our charity quiz night on Monday 10th July.

- 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
- Jackpot Bonus Prize £68**




SILMOR
Live at the
Middleton
Bell

July 16th
3.30 -6pm

MANOR HOUSE FOLK IN THE GARDEN



In 2022 we staged our first garden performance with Benhall-based musicians Jon & Lucy Hart plus Toby Shaer - aka Honey & The Bear.

We did this in aid of Bowel Cancer UK which was meaningful to us in honour of Mandy's younger brother Darren who succumbed to the disease in 2021. When the meadow was cut in late summer we erected a stage and invited all Middleton villagers to bring a picnic and many of you enjoyed an afternoon of excellent folk music with us.

It was such a success we were asked to repeat the afternoon with **Honey & The Bear** plus we're also delighted to be adding local group **Silmor** to the stage on:

the afternoon of Sunday August 6th

to raise funds for Bowel Cancer UK (we are looking for a suggested donation of £10 per person to attend).

We are looking for a volunteer/s to manage parking up at the Recreation Ground Car Park (from 1pm-2.30ish) - if anyone is available to help with this, please let us know - we would be very grateful.

If you would like to join us this year, please send an email to:

manorhousegarden@btinternet.com

and we will make sure you receive full details (incl timings & how to donate) nearer the time - please note that we do have a capacity limit and as we are inviting a wider local audience this year, do let us know asap if you don't want to be disappointed!

Middleton Community Council

REMINDER : CALLING ALL YOUNG RESIDENTS – bursary still available

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 Central House, The Street.

Middleton Open Gardens 3rd and 4th June

We were blessed this year with some wonderful sunshine, that showed the village and its gardens in the best possible light. It had the added benefit of bringing people from near and far to enjoy the beauty of our village.

We were excited to have 18 gardens included in the event. Extending from one end of the village to the other. We offered suggestions in the guide, for walks that encompassed both the gardens and public footpaths to encourage people to see a wider selection of gardens and enjoy other parts of the village.

The garden owners, as always, committed a great deal of their time and energy into creating some amazing displays of colour, creativity, and wildlife habitat. We offer a heartfelt thanks to them, for without them and their commitment, the event would not happen.



Feedback from visitors was very positive, notably how friendly the village is, how helpful and knowledgeable the garden owners are and not forgetting what great bakers we have in our village. There were some wonderful stories, one mum said her son insisted that they returned on Sunday, so that he could take up the offer of collecting bugs, using a net in Peter's garden. Another 4 friends returned, all the way from West Mersea Essex, having enjoyed it so much last year.



The church was decorated with glorious flower arrangements, and a display by the school children of their coronation 'Fit for a King' themed t-shirts and botanical artwork.



After a cold week, the sudden change in weather saw people very keen to get out and enjoy the sunshine. Despite many people having less money to spend, all considered the event good value for money, enabling us to raise a total of £3962.

£600 will go to Families in Need (FIND) a Suffolk based charity that helps families in crisis, £200 will go toward the Village Green Project in Middleton, with the remainder going to Holy Trinity Church. The Open Gardens weekend is the main fund raiser for our village Church, with the monies raised going directly towards the upkeep of this beautiful building; the PCC would like to thank you all.

The success of this event is due to the hard efforts and commitment of the gardeners and the villagers, both those up front and those behind the scenes; you are greatly appreciated, and we cannot thank you enough.

This year we give special thanks to Kathryn and Michele, who volunteered to organise the Pavilion refreshments. They went above and beyond in making the transition from Barbara's very successful team as smooth as possible whilst ensuring that visitors were able to continue to enjoy delicious refreshments as part of their day.

Thank you to all those who helped create the event, but also, to those who attended and made it such a memorable weekend.

Christine Burgess – Middleton's Open Gardens co-ordinator
Financial details - David Burgess - Church treasurer



Some more from the open gardens -

Having handed over the reins for refreshments I was able to visit a few gardens for a change and I chose a few that in all the years I've lived here I've either never been in or at least not for a very long time. I was intrigued by "Mr MacGregors Garden" (aka The Anchorage) with Peter Rabbit looking longingly at the veggie patch and the novel way (to me at least) of using an old door frame.



At Rose Farm I loved the "peephole" in the hedge to view the beautiful white wisteria. Is it Japanese or Chinese in origin? 2 different gardeners had differing opinions!



Views behind Marsh Acres not normally seen looking across towards Mill Street.



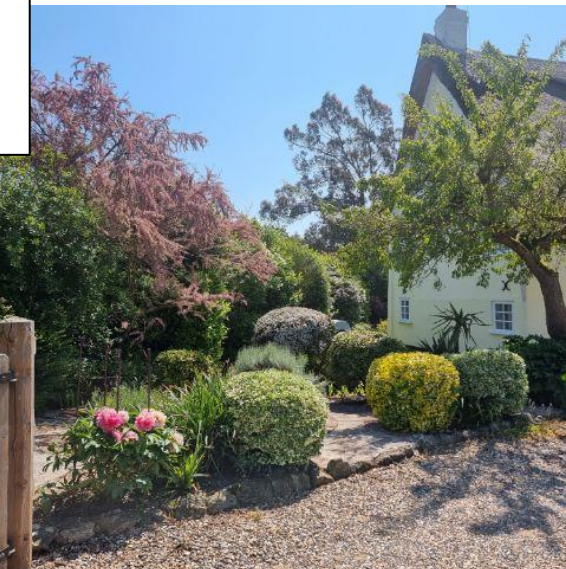
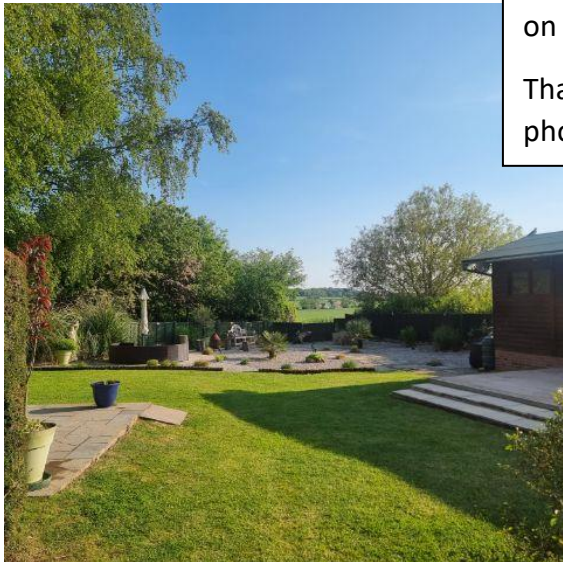
Looking across to the new stables at Rita & Ians , and a close up of their 'Tulip Tree' flower.



Views of 'Fir Tree' and 'Firethorn' in Rectory Road.....



...and 'The Thatched House' on the Moor.
Thanks all for allowing the photos to be used.



Lots of you ask – what’s happening at the Farm Shop?

There’s much happening at the old Middleton Farm Shop! Tosier Chocolate maker has taken up the lease and will be moving in their chocolate machinery during August. They are one of the UK’s very few small batch chocolate makers, and one of even fewer making bean-to-bar chocolate which can be seen in situ!

You’ll be able to taste their award-winning chocolate and see it being made and buy chocolate bars and gifts.

Along with the chocolate making, they will be offering chocolate tasting in their shop and café.

They will be selling organic sourdough bread from Harvey’s as well as bread from Wakelyns, the only 100% wholemeal bakery using local grains.

Jack Rosenthal will continue to supply his delicious farm grown produce through the year, as the seasons’ allow.

The café will feature a cacao-inspired menu and offer speciality coffee, chocolate and iced teas for the summer.

Opening days and hours are changing to Wednesday through to Sunday 9.30am - 3pm.

Come and say hello, sip a speciality coffee or iced chocolate or pick out a special gift whilst they get set up!

Tosier Chocolate Tasting Rooms, Reckford Farm, Leiston Road, Middleton IP17 3NS 01728 582882

Here’s a press release about the chocolate itself...



Tosier Chocolate is a family-owned bean-to-bar craft chocolate maker based in Suffolk. Founded in 2016 it is one of only a handful of UK based chocolate makers.

A true artisan maker, creating multi award-winning chocolate directly from cacao beans that is delicious, ethical and that celebrates the origins and flavours of the cacao beans.

Tosier sources its cacao beans directly from small-scale farmers and cooperatives around the world, paying them above the fair trade price and ensuring traceability and sustainability. Tosier works with cacao from Colombia, Ecuador, Belize and, Haiti among others, and showcases the unique terroir and characteristics of each region.

Tosier makes its chocolate in small batches of between 12 and 30 kilograms, using traditional stone grinders and minimal ingredients. This allows Tosier to preserve the natural aromas and nuances of the cacao, as well as to control the quality and consistency of each bar.

Tosier’s chocolate bars are wrapped in beautiful and eco-friendly packaging. The wrappers feature colourful patterns inspired by the cacao origins, as well as information about the bean-to-bar process and the social and environmental impact of Tosier’s chocolate.

Tosier Chocolate is more than just a product; it is a story of passion, craftsmanship and responsibility. Tosier invites you to discover the world of fine chocolate and to join them in their mission to support cacao farmers and communities.

DAIRY FREE, GLUTEN FREE, ADDITIVE FREE | THREE INGREDIENT CHOCOLATE



HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY



Services during July

Sunday 9 July **11am - Poetry and a picnic**

Please bring a simple picnic and perhaps a poem, a prayer, a psalm, or some prose you have found inspiring and that you would be happy to read aloud (or to be read on your behalf) and, praying for a sunny morning, we plan to sit and share these in the churchyard

Sunday 23 July **11am - Holy Communion**

Sunday 30 July **11am - Benefice service**

Please come along

Middleton Open Gardens – thank you!

On behalf of Holy Trinity PCC, I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in helping to make our open gardens event the success it was. It was a great weekend enjoyed by so many visitors.

Rita Church Warden



Holy Dusters 🧹

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

19 July - Amanda and Paul

August - understanding that holidays were God's idea in the first place, August has been decreed a month of sabbath rest for all dusters!

6 September - Mark and Liz

20 September – Val and Camilla

4 October – Trish and Graham

18 October - Amanda and Irene

8 November - Margaret and Nicola

22 November – Paul and Rob



Thought for the month

'God walks slowly because he is love'

from Three Mile an Hour God by Kosuke Koyama

Obituaries



Sadly there are more notices this month and our sincere condolences go to all the bereaved families.

It is with sadness that we have to report that Brian Barber (Rectory Road) passed away in hospital last week. Our thoughts are with Nancy and the family at this sad time. The funeral will be held on July 17th at 2pm in Holy Trinity Church.

A funeral service was held at Holy Trinity on June 14th for Peter Brown, of The Causeway, Middleton, who passed away on May 19th.

Some of our older residents may remember Margaret Birks formerly of Back Road, who has also recently passed away.

WI News

AT our June meeting we had the pleasure of meeting Graham and Sylvia Hawes and Sylvia's guide dog, Yara, a lovely golden retriever. Yara is her third guide dog and she was matched with Yara in 2016. Sylvia told us that she had very bad eyesight as a girl which prevented her from training to be a nurse. She married and raised 4 children and then worked in nursing homes caring for dementia patients which she loved. But in 2003 her eyesight suddenly deteriorated and she had to stop working. She was then advised that she was eligible for a guide dog.

Sylvia then told us about the charity Guide Dogs. Their National Centre is in Warwickshire where the breeding and training are done. Potential breeding dogs are health checked and screened for any genetic abnormalities and then suitable matches are made. The chosen dogs live in volunteers' homes. When the time comes the puppies are born at home and live there for 6 weeks. They are then transported to the National Centre to live in family groups and are chipped at 7 weeks. Puppies in one brood are given names starting with the same letter. As they grow they are assessed for their abilities and personalities. Each dog will then go to the home of a volunteer puppy "raiser". The puppy goes to training school at the Centre during the day and then goes home to the raiser after classes. The training by professionals at the Centre includes agility training, getting used to the harness, walking on pavements, going into shops and cafes, using public transport and responding to commands. Living with the raiser gets them used to a home and what they can and cannot do there (getting up on the furniture is a no-no!). At 18 months old, the dog is matched with a person on the waiting list. They take into account the personality of the dog and client, walking speed of both and the size of person and dog. They meet and spend 2 weeks at a hotel getting used to each other before they go to the client's home. If there are any problems there are advisors on hand. Guide Dogs will pay all the client's expenses for the upkeep of the dog throughout its' working life. The average working life is 10 years, then they are retired. The cost for the breeding, training and upkeep of each working dog is £58,000. Sylvia says that for her and all the others that benefit from the freedom it gives them, it is priceless.



While Sylvia was giving her talk, Yara was showing us what a very relaxed and obedient dog she is, very unfazed even when we oohed and ahed. She is a star.

Our July meeting will be our Garden Party which will be on the 19th at 4pm. LV

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Letter to the editor.

Good to see our building work made it into the newsletter! Just for journalistic accuracy the contraption in the photo was actually a concrete pump filling on the new foundations (see image attached). Tim & Gillian, Minsmere Rise



## July Nature Notes

Each summer, during July and August, huge numbers of flying ants suddenly appear. These are a mixture of males and potential queens embarking on their "nuptial" or "mating" flight, in the first step to founding a new colony.

There are some 50 species of ant in Britain, although, the ones that we commonly see swarm are the black garden ant, *Lasius niger*. The common red ant *Myrmica rubra* and other but not all species also swarm. The types of ant you see flying will depend on where you are. For example, in woodland you may see wood ants. There is not a single 'flying ant day', there are multiple peaks in flying ant activity linked to weather conditions each lasting a few days. The precise pattern varies from year to year. Ants only fly on days when it is warm, not windy and conditions have improved compared to the previous day. Periods of low pressure cause wind and rain discourages the ants from emerging. The large numbers of ants that fly in a short space of time means that there is a very high chance a queen will encounter a male from another nest. Swarming consistently takes place between 3 and 6 pm, sufficient time to mate and find somewhere to hide but not too much time for exposure to predators. Flying ants provide an important food resource for many species of birds, particularly swifts and gulls; the excited squawking of feasting gulls is often the first sign of flying ant day.



An ant colony can only expand so much. At some point a new queen will need to strike out on her own to begin a new colony. To reduce the likelihood of inbreeding she needs to meet and mate with a male from a different colony and find a new area in which to start building her nest. Growing wings and flying enables her to do this. Male ants are only produced during 'flying ant season': their only job is to mate with new queens and therefore male ants do no work within the nest. Once the males and immature queens have mated, the queens then start a new nest by digging an underground chamber. In this chamber the queen lays her first eggs. The eggs hatch into larvae, which feed up, pupate, and emerge as adult ants. For most of the year that ants that are seen are workers, collecting food for the colony. Black garden ant nests have around 5,000 workers, although there can be as many as 15,000. Workers are all female and will be alive as adults for about a month and male ants only live for a day or two after swarming, whereas a queen can expect to live for 15 years or more (28 years is the record in captivity). The queen is not in charge of the workers: her job is to lay eggs to create more workers, as well as new queens and males. Ants are able to form organised feeding trails by using pheromones to communicate. Some colonies of black garden ants farm aphids for the sugary honeydew they excrete. In return, they protect the aphid colonies from attack by predators and will even carry individual aphids to fresh host plants so that new colonies can be founded.

Peter Vincent

.....

### **DGT Maintenance Services**

**Locally based Maintenance Company**

**Repairs & maintenance to all types of property**

**Small Jobs Welcome, Free no obligation quotes**

**Telephone: 07941243140 or 01728 668715**

**Email: [dgt maintenanceservices@gmail.com](mailto:dgt maintenanceservices@gmail.com)**



# MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

## 1 Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Graham Lacey  
Cllr Chris Reynolds

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr Lesley Taylor  
Cllr Charles Macdowell

**In attendance:** Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk

One member of the public

## 2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

## 3 Public Forum

- a) A member of the public addressed the Council regarding a new advertisement board erected outside Norwood House and whether permission is required for such a sign. Cllr Cusack confirmed that permission is not required. Cllr Lacey added that as a temporary non fixed structure, permission is not normally needed. **Action: Cllr Cusack to seek confirmation that the sign is temporary and for how long it will be there.**

An enquiry was also made regarding County Broadband and the location of the cabinet on the Moor. Cllr Cusack confirmed that the Parish has objected to the location of the cabinet and that he is still waiting for a response.

There are 4 ploughs stored at The Bell Inn, they have been cleaned and painted and are looking for a new home. Councillors were asked to give this some thought.

- b) County Councillor report. None.  
c) District Councillor report. None.

## 4 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 as accurate.  
b) The Council approved the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 as accurate.

### c) Matters arising

Cllrs Reynolds and Thorpe are yet to declare any Declarations of Interest. **Action: Clerk to check that Cllrs Thorpe and Macdowell have submitted their Declarations of Interest.** The Clerk confirmed that Richard Turner has been advised that Cllr Lacey will be representing the Parish Council at the Village Hall Management meetings. Cllr Cusack confirmed that Cllr Macdowell has the next meeting, with local Parishes, regarding Sizewell C, in hand. Cllr Thorpe has sourced a local company to provide a plaque for the replacement bench at a cost of £35. Authorisation was given to order and purchase. Cllr Cusack advised that he is yet to prepare a new signage request for Fordley Road. Cllr Thorpe to address the issue of the outstanding fallen sign along with numerous others and reminded Councillors of the Highways Portal for the submission of known fallen signs.

Cllr Cusack continues to pursue the issued of permissive paths but had nothing to report at this stage. Cllr Thorpe confirmed that he has introduced himself, via email, to the Summer Wine Group.

## 5 Councillors' Reports

- a) Village Hall. **Action: Cllr Lacey to get in touch with Richard Turner, as the new contact.**  
b) Middleton Primary School. Nothing to report, other than it is the school's annual sports day on 14<sup>th</sup> June.  
c) Energy Project, including Sizewell C. Cllr Macdowell absent.  
d) Highways, footpath and trees. Cllr Thorpe raised the issue of dog mess on the footpaths. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to contact holiday let companies to ask that their patrons be mindful of the pathways and clean up after their dogs.** A request was also made that the footpaths across fields are made wider. **Action: Cllr Thorpe with talk with local farmers.**

## 6 Middleton Moor

Cllr Cusack advised that the south end of the pond is rapidly growing an island of willow. He met with a grounds work contractor who, in turn, recommended a pond specialist. Cllr Cusack reminded the Councillors that the Parish are responsible for the pond. To date it is planned to erect a temporary ramp and use a digger to extract material from the island. Cllr Lacey suggested that there are long reach machines available that could eliminate the need for a ramp. Although this piece of equipment would be more expensive to hire, it could potentially be more cost effective. Cllr Cusack advised that proper disposal of the waste material will need to be considered too, respecting local fauna and flora. **Action: Cllr Lacey to investigate the option of a longer reach machine.** Cllr Cusack recommended a window of opportunity to carry out the work to be November/ December and that the Middleton Moor fund currently holds £3,000, which is intended for such works.

## 7 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) £300 is budgeted for the village newsletter. Barbara Barker has reported a deficit at the present time and Cllr Cusack has suggested an additional one-off donation of £500. This was agreed by all.
- c) Authorisation was given for the payment of £12 to IONOS Cloud Ltd.

## 8 Planning

Planning application DC/23/2037/FUL. It was agreed that this application is considered to be a suitable redevelopment of the property. **Action: Clerk to enter approval on Planning Portal.**

## 9 Correspondence

A local resident has written to Cllr Cusack regarding fast traffic on Back Road. This is a 20mph zone. The resident has suggested installing chicanes; however, it is thought that the road is too narrow, Cllr Cusack suggested speed bumps. It was decided that the Councillors should give this matter some thought and for an article to be published in the parish newsletter to gauge reaction in the village.

**10 Items for the Next Agenda.** None.

## 11 Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

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### Parish Council Report June 2023

#### Speeding

Despite our 20mph speed limit, we receive regular reports of speeding on Back Road and Rectory Road.

A resident has suggested we respond by asking for chicanes like these in the village of Easton.

Alternatively, might speed bumps be worth trying? Please let us know what you think.

#### Middleton Moor pond

There is an island formed by willow trees rapidly growing in the large pond near Norwood House. We are worried that this could result in the pond shrinking with adverse effects on its wildlife. There are funds available from our Natural England contract to deal with this kind of challenge and the Council is investigating how best to deal with it.

Julian Cusack

Chair, Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council



## Love your village?

Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council has three vacancies for Parish Councillors. Your parish council deals with all sorts of issues and is listened to by both district and county councils.

If you have any good ideas about how to improve the village, joining the parish council could help you put those ideas into action.

If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact the council chair, Julian Cusack, via [julian.cusack@btinternet.com](mailto:julian.cusack@btinternet.com) or call him on 07887 475299.

*Don't forget, anyone can come and speak at a parish council meeting, which are normally on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Village Hall.*



**MBK**  
  
**Electrical**

**Michael Kennedy**

Allestree  
 Rectory Road  
 Middleton  
 Suffolk IP17 3NP  
 Tel: 01728 648865  
 Mob: 07968 160511  
 mbk@allestree.me.uk

Inspection  
 Testing & Installation

 **DAVID CALVERT**  
 PHOTOGRAPHY

LOCATION FAMILY PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE  
 2020 BIPP UK PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR.

Middleton  
**07930 500845**  
 www.calvertphoto.co.uk



**Jo Hannon**  
**Design**  
 Buildings and Interiors

Domestic extensions – Kitchens – Bathrooms – Furniture

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

07815 295927



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

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

To book the Village Hall contact Richard Turner on [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com) or 01728 648345  
 To book the pavilion on the Playing Field contact Lesley Taylor [taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk) or 07970257329

## Diary Dates 2023

### July

|                                            |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>                   | "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>                         |
| Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>                   | Vinyl Night at The Bell                                                          |
| Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>                   | Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>                                  |
| Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>                  | Summer boules - Playing field -open to all not just regular players. <b>10am</b> |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>                    | "Silmor' Live music at The Bell from <b>3.30pm</b>                               |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>                 | WI -Garden Party                                                                 |
| Sat/Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> /23 <sup>rd</sup> | Centenary Archives for the Village Hall <b>11 - 4pm</b>                          |

### August

|                           |                                                               |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>      |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>    | Live music at Manor House - 'Honey and the Bear' and 'Silmor' |
| Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> | Annual Village Fete, Recreation Ground <b>2pm</b>             |

### September

|                            |                                                                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Vinyl Night at The Bell                                                 |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>                |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>   | Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>                         |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> | WI - Village Hall - Steve Everett - Red Deer <b>7.15pm</b>              |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | A Talk on Samuel Pepys by Mark Mitchels, Holy Trinity Church <b>7pm</b> |

### October

|                            |                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>   | "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>         |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>                  |
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Autumn Fair                                                      |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> | WI - Village Hall - Katie Osborn - 'Beach bonkers' <b>7.15pm</b> |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | Piano concert by Reiko Fujisawa, Holy Trinity Church, <b>3pm</b> |

### November

|                            |                                                               |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | "Squit Night" - live music at The Bell - from <b>8pm</b>      |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>   | Parish council meeting, Village Hall <b>7pm</b>               |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> | WI - Village Hall - Cheese & Wine evening + AGM <b>7.15pm</b> |
| Date tbc -                 | Village Hall soup & roll quiz will be back                    |

### December

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

FOR SALE – any sensible offer accepted

Fire retardant single headboard

2 'retro' stools

Bike rack for a car



Roof bars for a car (one bolt missing)



Tunturi rowing machine



Interested in any of these items?

Contact Irene on 648622

[irenealph333@gmail.com](mailto:irenealph333@gmail.com)

07790 476616

